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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 15th March 1913.

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Nil

PART I OF WEEKLY REPORT.

List of Vernacular Newspapers.

(Corrected up to the 16th November 1912.)

No.	Name of Publication.	Where published.	Edition.	Name, caste and age of Editor.	Circulation.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	BENGALI.				
1	"Bangaratna" ...	Krishnagar	Weekly	Kanai Lal Das Hindu, Karmokar; age 28 year	1,500
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Calcutta	Do.	Bihari Lal Sarkar Kayastha, age 58 years; Hari Mohan Mukherji, Brahmin, age 43 years: Satyendra Kumar Basu.	15,000
3	"Bankura Darpan"	Bankura	Do.	Rama Nath Mukherji, V.L.M.S., Brahmin, age 51 years; Viswanath Mukharji, B.L., Brahmin, age 49 years.	4
4	"Barisal Hitaishi"	Barisal	Do.	Durga Mohan Sen, Baidya, age 35 years	600
5	"Banga Janani"	Rangpur (Bhotmari)	Do.	Sasi Mohan Adhikari, Baidya, age 37 years	.....
6	"Basumati" ...	Calcutta	Do.	Sureschandra Samajpati; Hari Pada Adhikhari, age 41 years; Mani Lal Banerji, age 36 years.	15,00 to 20, 00
7	"Birbhum Hitaishi"	Bolepur (Birbhum)	Do.	Dibakar Banerji; Hindu, Brahmin; age 43 years	300
8	"Birbhum Varta"...	Suri (Do.)	Do.	Debendra Nath Chakravarti, Brahmin, age 38 years ...	800
9	"Birbhum Vasi" ...	Rampurhat (Do.)	Do.	Nil Ratan Mukherji, B.A., Brahmin, ge 44 years	250
10	"Biswadut" ...	Howrah	Do.	Nagendra Nath Pal Chaudhuri; Hindu, Kayastha; age 6 years.	1,700
11	"Burdwan Sanjivani"	Burdwan	Do.	Probodhananda Sarkar, B.L., Kayastha, age 31 years ...	600
12	"Chabbis Pargana Vartavaha."	Bhowanipore... ...	Do.	Hem Chandra Nag, Kayastha, age 29 years	600 to 700
13	"Charumihir" ...	Mymensingh	Do.	Saikuntha Nath Sen, B.L., Kayastha, age 48 years	1,100
14	"Chinsura Varatavaha."	Chinsura	Do.	Dinanath Mukherji, Brahmin, age 46 years	60
15	"Dainik Chandrika"	Calcutta	Daily, except on Thursdays.	Hari Das Dutt and Kshetra Nath Sen	4,000
16	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca	Weekly	Satya Bhusan Dutt Roy, Baidya, age 46 years	60
17	"Dacca Prakas" ...	Do.	Do.	Mukhunda Behari Chakravarti, Brahmin, age 42 years ...	80
18	"Dhruba Tara" ...	Mymensingh	Do.	.....	.....
19	"Education Gazette"	Chinsura	Do.	Pandit Nibaran Chandra Bhattacharjee Brahmin, age 36 years.	1,500
20	"Faridpur Hitaishini"	Faridpur	Fortnightly ...	Raj Mohan Mazumdar, Baidya, age about 72 years	
21	"Gaud Dut" ...	Malda	Weekly	Krishna Chandra Agarwalla	.....
22	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Rajshahi	Do.	Kasinuddin Sarkar, Mahammadan, Printer, age 41 years ...	155
23	"Hindusthan" ...	Calcutta	Do.	Hari Das Dutt	1,000
24	"Hitavadi"	Do.	Do.	Anukul Chandra Mukherji and Sakharam Ganesh Deuskhar	9,000 to 20,000
25	Hitavarta"	Chittagong	Do.	.....	.....
26	"Islam Rabi" ...	Hymensingh	Do.	Maulvi Nazimuddin Ahmad, Musalman, age about 35 years	700
27	"Jagaran"	Bagerhat	Do.	.....	About 300
28	"Jasohar" ...	Jessore	Do.	Ananda Mohan Chaudhuri; Hindu, Kayastha	300
29	"Jyoti"	Chittagong	Do.	Kali Sankar Chakravati, Brahmin, age 47 years	1,000 to 2,000
30	"Kalyan"	Magura	Do.	Bisweswar Mukherji, Brahmin, age 46 years	300

No.	Name of Publication.	Where published.	Edition.	Name, caste and age of Editor.	Circulation.
1	2	3	4	5	
	BENGALI—*concld.*				
31	"Kasipore Nibasi" ...	Barisal	Weekly	Pratap Chandra Mukherji; Brahmin; age 68 years	500
32	"Khulnavasi" ..	Khulna	Do.	Gopal Chandra Mukherji; Hindu, Brahmin, age 31 years	350
33	"Malda Samachar"	Malda	Do.	Kali Prassanna Chakravarti, Brahmin, age 42 years	440
34	"Manbhum" ...	Purulia	Do.	Bagala Charan Ghosh; Hindu, Kayastha; age 41 years ...	About 500
35	"Midnapore Hitaishi"	Midnapore	Do.	Manmatha Nath Nag, Kayastha, age 35 years	500
36	"Medini Bandhab"	Ditto	Do.	Deb Das Karan; Hindu, Sadgop; age 44 years	462
37	"Moslem Hitaishi"...	Calcutta	Do.	Shaik Abdur Rahim and Mozammul Haque	4,000 to 5,000
38	"Muhammadi" ...	Ditto	Do.	Muhammad Akram Khan, Musalman, age 37 years, and Maulvi Akbar Khan.	2,000
39	"Murshidabad Hitaishi."	Saidabad	Do.	Banwari Lal Goswami; Hindu, Brahmin; age 46 years ...	200
40	"Nayak"	Calcutta	Daily	Birendra Chandra Ghosh and Panchkari Banerjee	1,500 to 3,000
41	"Navavanga" ...	Chandpur	Weekly	Harendra Kisore Ray, Kayastha, age 25 years	502
42	"Noakhali Samuhlani"	Noakhali	Do.	Sasi Bhushan Das, Kayastha	200
43	"Nihar"	Contai	Do.	Madhu Sudan Jana, Brahmo, age 43 years	250
44	"Pallivarta" ...	Bongong ...	Do.	Charu Chandra Ray; Hindu, Kayastha; age 38 years ...	500
45	"Pallivasi" ...	Kalna	Do.	Sasi Bhushan Banerji, age 47 years	200
46	"Pabna Hitaishi"	Pabna	Do.	Basanta Kumar Vidyavinode, Bhattacheryya, Brahmin, age 36 years.	500
47	"Praja Bandhu" ...	Tippera	Fortnightly ...	Munshi Muhammad Ali Mazr., Musalman, age 53 years ...	200
48	"Prasun" ...	Katwa	Weekly	Purna Chandra Chatterji, Brahmin age 47 years, and Banku Behary Ghose, Goala, age 41 years.	618
49	"Pratibar" ..	Berhampur ...	Do.	Kamakshya Prasad Ganguly, Brahmin, age 64 years ...	500
50	"Purulia Darpan"...	Purulia	Do.	Amulya Ratan Chatterji, Brahmin, age 41 years	About 700
51	"Rajsakti"	Ditto	Do.	Bagala Charan Ghosh, Kayastha, age 41 years	110
52	"Ratnakar" ...	Asansol	Do.	Satya Kinkar Banerji, Brahmin, age 26 years	500
53	"Rangpur Durpan"	Rangpur (Bhotmari)	Do.	Braja Nath Basak; Hindu, Tanti; age 52 years	200
54	"Rangpur Dikprakas"	Ditto ditto ...	Do.	Hara Sarkar Maitra, Brahmin, age 66 year	300
55	"Samay"	Calcutta	Do.	Jnanendra Nath Das, M.A., B.L., Brahmo, age 58 years ...	500 to 800
56	"Sanjaya"	Faridpur	Do.	Rama Nath Ghosh, Kayastha, age bout 38 years	500
57	"Sanjivani"	Calcutta	Do.	Lalit Mohan Das, late Professor, City College; Sibnath Sastri, M.A; Ramananda Chatterji, M.A., Editor, "Modern Review," etc.; K. K. Mitter.	11,000
58	"Sansodhini" ..	Chittagong	Do.	Kashi Chandra Das Gupta, Brahmo, age 60 years	400
59	"Suhrid"	Perojpur	Fortnightly ...	Ram Chandra Pal, Kayastha	200
60	"Subarnabanik" ...	Calcutta	Weekl	.....	.....
61	"Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika."	Ditto	Do.	Rasik Mohan Chakravarti, Brahmin, age 39 years, and Mrinal Kanti Ghosh.	2,500
62	"Sikaha Samachar"	Dacca	Do.	Abinas Chandra Gupta, M.A., B.L., Baidya, age 36 years ...	.....
63	"Suraj"	Pabna	Do.	.....	.....
64	"The Calcutta Advertiser"	Calcutta	Do.	.....	.....
65	"Tripura Guide" ..	Comilla	Do.	.....	.....

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1	2	3	4	5	6
	BENGALI—*concld.*				
66	"Tripura Hitaishi"	Tippera	Weekly	Kamaniya Kumar Singha, Brahmo, age 23 years	700
67	"Vartabaha" ...	Ranaghat	Do.	Girija Nath Mukherji, Hindu, Brahmin, age 41 years ...	550 to 600
68	"Viswavarta" ...	Dac	Do.	Abinash Chandra Gupta, M.A., B.L., Hindu, Baidya, age 36 years.	1,000

Additions to, and alterations in, the list of Vernacular Newspapers as it stood on the 16th November 1912.

No.	Name of Publication.	Where published.	Edition.	Name, caste and age of Editor.	Circulation
1	"Bharat Chitra" ...	Calcutta ...	Weekly ...	.....	.....
2	"Hablul Matin" ...	Calcutta ...	Daily ...	.....	.....

I.—Foreign Politics.

The *Education Gazette* [Chinsurah] of the 7th March, referring to the recent relations between Russia and Mongolia, writes:— Education Gazette, Mar. 7th, 1913.

Persian politics.

An alliance between a strong Power and a weak one never left the individuality of the latter intact, the only exception being the case of the English and Nepal. If England now takes over South Persia and leaves Russia to occupy North Persia, South Persia will be the field of battle when the inevitable war between England and Russia comes off. It will be a serious struggle. At present England has no vulnerable point so far as Russia is concerned. But if South Persia is taken by England it will give Russia such a vulnerable point. A railway between Kurachi and Cairo passing through South Persia and South Turkey, may indeed facilitate communications, but it is likely to result in disaster. Let England unite with Russia, and both give Persia a chance to reform herself. Such a policy will please all Indians, and Moslems will feel it to be some consolation for the shock they have sustained by England's refusal to help Turkey in this crisis. Persia had a great past. But 200 years ago the Persians were an aggressive force in India and in Central Asia. Of course, a great Empire like Russia or England may keep it down, but that will not be right.

II.—Home Administration.

(*a*)—*Police.*

2. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 8th March is glad to learn that its complaint about three Brahman Pandits having been insulted in front of the Burtolla thana (see paragraph 3 of Report on Native Papers for the 1st March is going to be inquired into by Mr. Tegart. Bangavasi; Mar. 8th, 1913.

Brahman Pandits insulted.

3. Referring to the same incident, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th March writes:— Hitavadi, Mar. 7th, 1913.

Ibid.

It is inconceivable that helpless Brahman Pandits should be harassed thus all of a sudden, it is surprising and terrible. Let prompt steps be taken to bring this worthy policeman to his senses and pacify Hindu society, which feels aggrieved at it.

4. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 8th March reports the same incident, and urges the Commissioner of Police to enquire into the matter at once, and, if the allegation proves true, to award adequate punishment to the police-officer concerned. Basumati, Mar. 8th, 1913.

Ibid.

5. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 8th March says that everywhere in Bengal people are oppressed by Pathans. Most of the Pathans who come to this country are ruffians. It is necessary, therefore, that the country should be rid of them. The attention of Lord Carmichael is drawn to the matter. Basumati, Mar. 8th, 1913.

Pathans in Bengal.

6. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 7th March say that in spite of the Cotton Gambling Ordinance, the game is being secretly played in Calcutta. Other forms of gambling, namely ring-gambling packet-gambling, and so forth are openly in vogue in the city. These forms of gambling are conducted by *gundas* who compel mufassal rustics to play them, and thus rob them of everything they possess. Samay, Mar. 7th, 1913.

Gambling in Calcutta.

A serious complaint against the Kushtea Police.

7. A correspondent of the *Muhammadi* (Calcutta) of the 7th March says:— Muhammadi Mar. 7th, 1913,

On receiving information that one Belayet Ali, a poor Musalman inhabitant of the Hatia village within the Kushtea Sub-division of the Nadia district, had bought a stolen cow the Sub-Inspector of the Kushtea thana went on enquiry to the village and wanted to send him up for trial. Thereupon the

poor man's relatives and the headman of the village proved his innocence before the Sub-Inspector, who then demanded Rs. 100 as the price for his release. The poor man with great difficulty borrowed Rs. 80, and with this sum gratified the Sub-Inspector and got his release. A few days after, the Chaukidar of the village conspired with the peon who had come to the village with a warrant against one Abbas Ali, a witness in the Hatia Korbani Injunction case, and taking Belayet to the President Panchayet's house they told him that as a warrant had been issued against him he would have to go to Jhenida. This time also the man got his release by paying some money. Again, a few days after, a Chaukidar told Belayet that he would have to go to Jhenida that very night. In despair the man became distracted, ceased taking any food, ran about frantically and at last on the 30th January committed suicide by hanging himself. Even after this, when the Sub-Inspector of the Kushtea thana came to enquire into the suicide he realized about Rs. 10 or Rs. 12 as his carriage-hire, *nazarana*, cost of the fooding of his men and chaukidars and so forth, before giving orders for burying the dead body.

The editor draws the attention of the authorities to the above very serious allegations.

A serious charge against a Railway Police Daroga in the Tippera district.

NAVAVANGA, Feb. 28th, 1913.

8. The *Navavanga* [Chandpur] of the 28th February has the following:—

On the occasion of the last *Paus Sankranti* festival a number of people were attacked by dacoits on their way to the *mela* at the temple of Kali at Meha. Fortunately, one of the men caught hold of the leader of the dacoits and took him to the Railway Police. But the Railway Police suppressed the truth, and sent up both the dacoit and his captor for trial in the Chandpur Criminal Court on the charge of causing disturbance on railway land. In the course of the trial respectable witnessess deposed that they had seen the police taking bribes from both the parties. The leader of dacoits caught is a notorious old convict. That the inocent people who had been going to the temple of Kali did no wrong by catching hold of him on being oppressed by dacoits, has been made clear by the judge who is trying the case. That the *Daroga* of the Railway Police took bribes at the time information was lodged, and that he did not take down the deposition of the captor of the dacoits—these two points should be thoroughly investigated. The captor of the dacoits is now willing to compromise the case. We, however, pray Government not to allow the case to be compromised in the public interest.

BASUMATI, Mar. 8th, 1913.

Unrest in a Basirhat village.

9. A correspondent of the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 8th March says that the prevalence of strong party feeling among the Musalmans of village Gokulpur near Basirhat in the 24-parganas has created almost a state of anarchy in the village. From suing each other in civil and criminal courts, the wicked villagers have now descended to open rioting and attacks on each other's person. *Gundas* are always watching the movements of people. It has become dangerous to stir about alone. Trade is at a standstill. Even agriculture is suffering.

NAVAVANGA, Feb. 28th, 1913.

Oppression on shop-keepers and pilgrims in a Kali temple in the Tipperah district.

10. The *Navavanga* [Chandpur] of the 28th February speaks of people and shops in the *Mela* at the temple of Kali at Meha having been beaten and plundered by *badmashes*. If the owners of the temple are unable to save pilgrims from oppression, Government should take the matter up in its own hands.

MOSLEM HITAISHI, Mar. 7th, 1913.

Hindus boycotting Moslems.

11. The *Moslem Hitaishi* [Calcutta] of the 7th March complains that the Namasudra and other low-caste Hindu *manjhis* who ply their boats on the rivers in Vikrampur, decline to take Moslem passengers on board being instigated to such conduct by their educated high-caste co-religionists.

SANJIVANI, Mar. 6th, 1913.

Dacoity and the Bengal Police.

12. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 6th March says that Mr. Morshead's account of the inefficiency of the Bengal Police in the work of detecting dacoits is extremely disappointing to the people of the country, who have to maintain the police at an enormous cost for guarding their lives and properties. The detective section

of the police should be reorganized, so as to make it efficient in the work of suppressing dacoity, otherwise this section is perfectly useless.

SAMAY, Mar. 7th, 1913.

Domiciliary searches in Eastern Bengal.

13. Referring to the numerous domiciliary searches which are being made by the police in Eastern Bengal, the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 7th March says:—

Of course the frequent occurrence of dacoity in Eastern Bengal has compelled the police to adopt this course. But care should be taken not to harass respectable people by domiciliary searches instituted on insufficient and doubtful grounds of suspicion. It is hoped that Lord Carmichael will be careful to prevent this sort of harassment.

BASUMATI, Mar. 8th, 1913.

Ibid.

14. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 8th March also writes to the above effect *anent* domiciliary searches in Eastern Bengal.

HITAVADI, Mar. 7th, 1913.

The Arms Act and the present crisis.

15. The *Hitavadi* Calcutta of the 7th March writes:—

The recent outbreak of organized crime in Bengal shows that the Arms Act has failed of its purpose. It only prevents loyal and inoffensive citizens from defending themselves, while doing nothing to discourage those who break the law. Whence do those criminals procure arms and weapons? The police and the Criminal Investigation Department cannot do effectively what they are paid to do. And the fact remains that the subordinate police officer is four times better off than a clerk drawing the same pay. This means that the offenders whom the police should bring to justice contribute to increase the policeman's income. The present is a serious crisis, when selected and loyal citizens should be allowed without difficulty to possess themselves of fire-arms.

BARTAVAHA, Mar. 1st, 1913.

Panchayet Reform.

16. The *Bartavaha* [Ranghat] of the 1st March writes:—

The scheme of Panchayet reform now under consideration, proposes the appointment of a clerk to each President of Panchayets. We think the better thing to do will be to get the work of the clerk done by the collecting Panchayet and the present work of the collecting Panchayet may be shared with another Panchayet.

It is further proposed to raise the wages of the Chaukidars, and make them whole-time servants. This we believe is impracticable. They will persist in doing other work no matter how much extra remuneration Government may offer them.

At present there are eight Chaukidars at least in each union. We think this number may be reduced safely to five.

The collecting Panchayet may be allowed Rs. 10 or Rs. 12 per month, so that he may do the work of collecting Panchayet as well as of clerk.

CHARU MIHIR, Mar. 4th, 1913.

Paucity of police-stations in the Mymensingh District.

17. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 4th March says that within the distance of 24 miles from Netrakona to Mymensingh and 25 miles from Phulpur to Ishwarganj, there is no police station. Conseqnently, *budmashes* are very bold within this area, and oppress people with impunity. A new police-station should, without delay, be established in the locality of Kashiganj within portions of the jurisdiction of the Ishwarganj, Phulpur and Netrakona police stations. For the good government of the district Government should first of all increase the number of police-stations in it instead of dividing it into two districts, and in order to properly deal with *budmashes*, each police-station should be equipped with two Sub-Inspectors and a number of constables.

(*b*)—*Working of the Courts.*

HITAVADI, Mar. 7th, 1913.

"Mukhtars and a Magistrate."

18. Referring to the orders recently passed by Mr. Hamilton, Magistrate of Murshidabad against Mukhtars practising in his Court, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th March writes:—

Government or the High Court may, if necessary, regulate the conditions on which Mukhtars are to practise. Who is Mr. Hamilton to issue orders in this matter without reference to them? What steps have Government taken

to cure Mr. Hamilton of the evil genius which spurred him on to this mischievous line of conduct?

DAINIK CHANDRIKA, Mar. 5th, 1913.

"Mukhtars and a Magistrate."

19. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 5th March, referring to the same subject, writes that such action is against all precedent and practice. The High Court has held that the terms of section 340 of the Criminal Procedure Code do not warrant any general rule for the exclusion of mukhtars in all cases, but only allow a discretion in each case as it arises. Magistrates are expected not to deprive parties of legal aid, which they can obtain at a moderate cost, by the indiscriminate exclusion of persons who are invested by law with a distinct professional status in criminal trials. It is true that Mr. J. G. Cumming has, for the present, settled the difficulty about Mr. Hamilton's order, but what is really wanted is a change in the law, preventing such abuse of power in the future by individual Magistrates.

CHARU MIHIR, Mar. 4th, 1913.

A complaint against the Sub-divisional Officer of Netrakona.

20. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 4th March complains that the Sub-divisional Officer of Netrakoea holds his court till 9 P.M., thus compelling parties to wait in the open outside till this late hour, exposed to the inclemencies of the winter night. The authorities should, it is remarked, make provision for giving regular promotion to even such officers as do not hold their courts till late in the evening.

HITAVADI, Mar. 7th, 1913.

The *Beharee* defamation case.

21. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th March, referring to the *Beharee* defamation case, asks why the Magistrate of Gya issued warrants in this case against Babu Rameswar Prassad and Mahabir Ram. They were not thieves and murderers. Would not summonses have been enough?

BASUMATI, Mar. 8th, 1913.

The Chandighat tea garden case.

22. Referring to the reduction of the sentence on the accused person in the Chandighat tea garden case by the District Judge of Sylhet, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 8th March says :—

We are glad that after all the walking stick has escaped being classified with dangerous weapons. But the sentence is still too severe in our opinion.

(*d*)—*Education.*

HITAVADI, Mar. 7th, 1913.

Government Resolution on educational policy.

23. In discussing the recent Government Resolution on educational policy, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th March writes :—

We cannot understand why India should not have a system of compulsory primary education as most civilized countries have. Of course, the lines of progress chalked out in this Resolution, if adhered to, will extend primary education, but not so much as we hope for. And Government would not do this little even but for Mr. Gokhale's agitation for compulsory and free primary education.

As regards the danger of educated Indian youths finding themselves without means of livelihood, and the consequent necessity of establishing factories and the like, it has to be borne in mind that with a system of free trade people will not venture on starting new factories, for fear of pitting their infant industries in unsuccessful competition against the finished products of Europe and America.

Anyway, this Resolution may be taken as indicating that henceforth education will not be neglected as in the past. We should be happy to see a hard and fast rule laid down that larger and larger funds are to be devoted to education each year.

BHARAT CHITRA, Mar. 9th, 1913.

Ibid.

24. Referring to the same Resolution, the *Bharat Chitra* [Calcutta] of the 9th March writes as follows :—

In Bengal, at present the rule of the University has became thoroughly despotic. Matters would have been quite different had a Civilian been at the head of the affairs of ihe University.

An introduction of the projected Board School system in the mufassal will lead to the abolition of the existing *pathsalas*. Will not this be an injury to the cause of primary education?

Government would have done well by accepting the Calcutta *Mahakali pathsala* system of education for girls, which is approved of by all Hindus.

The idea of bringing all schools under Government control is a salutary one. Most private schools discharge their teachers before the summer vacation in order to save their salaries, and at the end of the vacation appoint new teachers. This causes great loss to students. Moreover, there is the dishonest practice of paying a teacher one salary and having a higher salary entered in books in his name. Teachers do not also get their salaries regularly. The sooner such schools are abolished the better.

The editor approves of making the School-Final Examination as the test of qualification for admission to Government service. It will check the mad hunt for clerical service after passing the Matriculation, and divert the attention of people to other means of earning a livelihood.

Government Resolution on educational policy.

25. The *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 1st March writes that the Resolution has created serious alarm in the minds of the public. It shows how little Government knows about the condition and the social usages and public opinion of the country.

JASOHAR, Mar. 1st, 1913.

The Muktearship examination.

26. A correspondent writes to the *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 4th March making the following suggestions in regard to the Muktearship examination:—

NAYAK, Mar. 4th, 913.

(1) Each district should have a class for giving a year's training in the courses of study prescribed for the Muktearship examination.

(2) The aggregate for a "pass" should be reduced from 66 per cent. to 50 per cent. and the minimum for the same in each paper should be 33 per cent. instead of 50 per cent.

(3) The oral examinations should be abolished and the written examination should be held in two days with four question papers.

(4) The questions on civil law should be made easy, as 99 per cent. of muktears practise only in the criminal courts.

In the last Muktearship examination, the papers on the Evidence Act and the Criminal Procedure Code were unduly stiff, and it is to be hoped that in awarding marks, the examiners will bear this fact in mind.

And let the control of these Muktearship and Pleadership examinations be taken over by the University.

The Dacca University.

27. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 4th March says that the constitution of the Dacca University, as proposed by the Dacca University Committee, will defeat the pnrpose of the Government in establishing the University. The main defect in the proposed constitution is the element of distinctive treatment which prevades it wholesale. That distinctive treatment is the most potent cause of much evil in this country, is admitted by Government also. Under the circumstances, why has the pinciple of distinctive treatment been allowed to spoil the Dacca University scheme? The proposed classification of Professors in the University is open to serious objection. The distinction between members of the Indian Service and the Provincial Service in the University will give rise to great dissatisfaction.

CHARU MIHIR Mar. 4th, 1913.

The Dacca University is to serve as a model on which other Universities are to be moulded in India. It is, therefore, necessary that it should be free from defects and imperfections. We, therefore, request the Government to establish it on the firm and broad basis of liberality and large-mindedness.

Ibid.

28. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 8th March says that a law college under the Dacca University will get neither good Professors nor meritorious students. Some time ago a Calcutta Barrister was appointed as a Professor of law in the Dacca college but he threw up the appointment. No lawyer who has a good practice or expects to have a good practice, can afford to leave the High Court.

BASUMATI, Mar. 8th, 1913.

Students treated differently in England and India.

29. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 6th March writes as follows:—

SANJIVANI, Mar. 6th, 1913.

It has been proposed in the Cambridge University that no student should be given his University Degree unless he has acquired efficiency in the art of warfare. In India, on the contrary, it has been ruled that Indian students must not discuss politics or hear political speeches or attend meetings in which politics is discussed.

MOSLEM HITAISHI, Mar. 7th, 1913.

30. The *Moslem Hitaishi* [Calcutta] of the 7th March discussing the proposal of the Dacca University Committee to encourage the publication in Bengali of books written in a Musalmani fashion, remarks:—

Musalmanising the Bengali language.

Unless Bengali is enriched by gleanings from Arabic, Persian and Urdu, the Musalman national spirit can never be kept intact. This means that there must be a free infusion of Arabic and Persian words into the language, a process already begun some 200 years ago. Considering that Moslems constitute more than half the population of Bengal, they have as much if not greater, claims on Bengali than the Hindus. Of course there is no idea here that the colloquial semi slang language used by Moslems of the humbler classes should be taken into the written language. And in fact the colloquial spoken language is the same for both Moslems and Hindus in each part of the province.

NAYAK, Mar. 8th, 1913.

31. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 8th March writes that at the recent Matriculation Examination in Bengali, the Head Examiner in examining at random some of the papers already examined, came across a case where he awarded 62 marks to a lad to whom the Examiner had awarded only 29. This should be a lesson to Sir Asutosh not to give unworthy men any share of the patronage at his disposal in connexion with the University.

A University complaint.

BIRBHUMVASI Mar. 6th, 1913.

32. The *Birbhumvasi* [Rampurhat] of the 6th March points out that that day (the 6th March) is *Sivaratri* day and yet the University held its examination on that date. It would not dare show such disrespect to either Christians or Moslems.

Ibid.

MUHAMMADI, Mar. 7th, 1913.

33. The *Muhammadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th March says that when, in consequence of the publication of reports of the conduct of the headmaster of the Salap High School within the Serajgang Subdivision towards certain Musalman students in the *Muhammadi*, Inspecting officers of the Education Department visited the school for enquiry, other Musalman students of the school also brought to their notice the oppressive conduct of the headmaster. For this offence the headmaster is now committing such *sulum* on the students as to make the place too hot for them. They are not also getting transfer certificates, so that they may join other schools. The authorities are requested to enquire into the matter and transfer the headmaster from the school, or otherwise save the Musalman students from oppression.

The headmaster of the Salap High School within the Serajganj Subdivision.

BIRBHUMVISI, Mar. 6th, 1913.

34. Referring to the complaint made by the *Hitavadi* that schoolmasters do not command the respect and influence in the eyes of their pupils that they did in the past, (see paragraph 27 of the Report on Native Papers for the 8th March) the *Birbhumvasi* [Rampurhat] of the 6th March writes:—

The dignity of schoolmasters.

It would be a sin not to admit that Government is always eager to uphold the dignity of teachers. If anybody is to blame in this connexion, it is not Government, but our society.

SANJIVANI, Mar. 6th, 1913.

35. Referring to the promotion of Mr. Duke, B.A., to the Indian Educational Service, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 6th March says:—

Mr. Duke's promotion to the Indian Educational Service.

Mr. Duke has been raised to a position which is denied to Bengali Professors of established reputation. Is this just?

MUHAMMADI, Mar. 7th, 1913.

36. The *Muhammadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th March writes as follows under the heading "injustice in the Education Department":—

Injustice in the Education Department.

From the very beginning of Lord Carmichael's regime Musalman officers in the Education Department are being so unjustly treated, their just claims to promotion are being so disregarded and instead of being promoted in service they are being so degraded, that all their zeal in the cause of education has cooled down.

(1) In the matter of the theft of question papers in the Calcutta Madrasah, the Assistant Registrar alone of the Bengal Madrasah has been punished, while the Registrar, who is an Englishman has escaped scot-free. Is not this an unjust distinction of colour? Has not the Registrar any responsibility in the management of the affairs of the Madrasah system?

(2) Khan Bahadur Maulvi Ibrahim was Additional Inspector of Schools in the Presidency Division. He was next promoted as Inspector of Schools, Burdwan Division, and Maulvi Matlub Ahmad Khan Chaudhury was brought down from Dacca to fill his post in the Presidency Division. But shortly after Maulvi Ibrahim was made to revert to his old post and a Eurasian, his junior in service by ten years, was appointed Inpector of Schools in the Burdwan Division. The Maulvi is an old, experienced, able and conscientious officer, and still he has been thus degraded.

(3) Maulvi Abdul Karim is one of the ablest officers in the Education Department. His labours in the cause of education are well-known not only to the public but also to the Government. Even Sir Bampfylde Fuller spoke highly of his work as Inspector of Schools, Chittagong Division. But what reward did he get for his good services? He was degraded as Assistant Inspector, and a junior officer, much inferior to him in ability, was appointed Inspector of Schools in his place. The Maulvi was broken-hearted and lost his health. He is now on leave, and it is doubtful whether he will return to official work again. We do not know what the Maulvi's fault was for which he was degraded. Most probably, his independence and hatred of flattery earned for him the displeasure of his superiors who, consequently, urged the Government to degrade him. It is rumoured that his travelling bills for three years had not been passed, on the ground that they were incorrect. If they were incorrect they ought to have been returned to him for correction. But instead of doing that, the authorities kept them in abeyance for three years and then passed them. Why was this done? Would the bills have been passed had they been really incorrect?

(4) When Maulvi Matlub Ahmed Khan Chaudhury was brought down to Calcutta fo fill Maulvi Ibrahim's post in the Presidency Division, he was not told or given to understand that he was going there for only a short time. He, therefore, brought down his family to Calcutta and took up permanent quarters here. But within a few months he was transferred back to Dacca. It has again been decided that he is to come down shortly to Hooghly as Headmaster of the Hooghly Collegiate School. Now, what is the Maulvi's offence that he is being harassed in this manner? Is it his authorship of a school book which has got currency as a text book? If so, he has been punished heavily for a light offence. Have not many Hindu and English officers of the Department written text-books both in their own names and in the names of others? Moreover, there is no standing rule forbidding Inspecting officers to write text-books. The authorities may, on enquiry, easily bearn that many Hindu and English officers of the Department are authors of many text-books, and that many such officers are conducting business as publishers of books.

(5) Maulvi Abul Muksud of Rangpur has been suspended and why? It is rumoured that his offence was that he had submitted incorrect travelling allowance bills. If true, it is no doubt a sad incident. But where is the law to suspend an officer for submitting incorrect travelling allowance bills?

It is rumoured that very soon the authorities will get rid of half a dozen Musalman officers of the Education Department.

These and many other reports about the unjust treatment of Musalman officers in the Education Department by the authorities, have reached us. We are also aware how shabbily Musalmans schools and *pathsalas* in the country are being treated by them. All this is ruining the cause of Musalman education in the country. Cases are not rare in which Musalman schools and *pathsalas*, equipped according to the rules of the Government and to the satisfaction of the authorities, have not only not received any aid from Government but are not even getting affiliation.

We beg to draw the attention of the Government to the above complaints.

BHARAT CHITRA, Mar. 9th, 1913.

37. The *Bharat Chitra* [Calcutta] of the 9th March says that the Bengal Library does excellent services to the cause of liturature and to authors by keeping a permanent stock of all published books. A book deposited in the Library can, therefore, be had for registration of copyright even 20 years after. In copyright suits great help can be had from the Library. In the *Mahabharata* case the old copyright (*sic.*) of the book was produced from it. We, continues the writer, are now astonished to hear that orders have been issued by Government no

The Bengal Library.

longer to keep books and copyright (*sic.*) in the Library for more than one year, and that for this reason arrangements have been made for giving away many books. Letters have also been sent to many schools for taking books from the Library, and it is reported that many books are being even destroyed. Of course, the will of the authorities will have its own way, and will not be changed by anything we may say. But what will be the condition of authors if the copyrights (*sic.*), which are public property, are destroyed by the Government on its own initiation or on the advice of some ape-like mischievous officer? Does not the Government consider how ludicrous its position will be before the public when, in copyright suits, authors will ask for copyrights (*sic.*) from it and it will fail to supply them.

It is rumoured that Government has desired to save money by reducing the establishment (?) of the Bengal Library. We do not believe this. We have no faith in the argument that Government is in want of money. Even if such be the case, it may abolish the Bengal Library and have its work done by some other Library or Registry office.

We request the Government to make suitable arrangements for the preservation of books and copyrights of books (*sic.*) which are public property and keeping the status of the Bengal Library intact. It will be well for it not to incur the ridicule of the public by destroying public property on the advice of some new man.

ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA, Mar. 6th, 1913.

Students and suffragettes in England.

38. Referring to the friction between students and suffragettes in England, the *Ananda Bazar Potrika* [Calcutta] of the 6th March says that in England the authorities take no steps to prevent students from indulging in such rowdy freaks. What, however, would have been the attitude of the authorities in India had students in this country done anything of the kind?

BASUMATI, Mar. 8th, 1913.

Indian students in England.

39. Referring to a paragraph which has appeared in *Truth* about the number and talent of students of law in England, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 8th March says that lawyers in England have already become afraid lest Indian barristers should, when their field in India becomes overcrowded, begin practicising in England, otherwise why should the new rule requiring Indian students of law in England to have passed at least the B. A. Examination, have been promulgated? The Medical profession in England also is similarly afraid of Indians, for London hospitals are refusing to take in Indian students. It is ridiculous on the part of people to make pretences to liberality and highmindedness when the slightest fear of their interest being interfered with makes them throw it all off.

(*e*)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

BANGAVASI Mar. 8th, 1913.

The Medical College Hospital.

40. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 8th March notices a complaint made in the *Bengalee* by a patient in the Medical College Hospital regarding the diet supplied, and the nurses provided, and appeals for a prompt official inquiry into those complaints.

TRIPURA GUIDE Mar. 4th, 1913.

Cholera and Small-pox in the Tipperah district.

41. The *Tripura Guide* [Comilla] of the 4th March learns from a correspondent that cholera and small-pox are raging virulently in most villages within the Chandpur and Brahmanberia subdivisions, owing chiefly to the want of wholesome drinking-water. Government ought to supply every thana in this part of this country with cholera pills.

(*f*)—*Questions affecting the land.*

BARISAL HITAISHI, Mar. 3 1913.

Road cess revaluation in the Bakarganj district.

42. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 3rd March heartily thanks the Government for having ordered a revision of the revaluation of the road-cess in the Bakarganj district which had been most perfunctorily done by Babu Nalini Ranjan Raha, Deputy Magistrate.

(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

43. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 4th March wants to know whether Government actually intends to take up the construction of the proposed Mymensingh-Tangail Railway immediately after completion of its survey. Otherwise, it should not, by undertaking merely to survey the line, prevent Messrs. Martin Company from constructing a Light Railway from Mymensingh to Elasin. Of course, the proposed Government line will be more advantageous to the public than the proposed Light Railway. But people would, at present, rather have the Light Railway than no railway at all. It is, however, hoped the Government will soon take up the construction of its own line.

CHARU MIHIR, Mar. 4th, 1913.

The proposed Mymensingh Tangail Railway.

44. The *Aanada Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 6th March urges the necessity of constructing a railway from the Koaid or Jaydevpur station on the Dacca-Mymensingh Railway and from there to Porhabar-shi Elasin. Such a line will greatly facilitate communication between Dacca and Tangail and give a great impetus to the local trade.

ANANDA BAZAR PRATIKA, Mar. 6th, 1913.

Wanted a new railway in the Mymensingh district.

45. The *Moslem Hitaishi* [Calcutta] of the 7th March writes that the Hindu *pani-panres* (peons for supplying water to the passengers) should be replaced by Moslem *pani-pelana*-wallas so far as Moslem passengers are concerned, for the former are too dirty according to the ideas of Moslems.

MOSLEM HITAISHI, Mar. 7th, 1913.

Water-supply to Railway passengers.

(h)—General.

46. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 8th March, referring to the Financial Statement, writes:—

BANGAVASI. Mar. 8th, 1913.

The Financial Statement.

Sir Guy Wilson is entitled to take credit to himself for his heavy surplus, but if he assumes this surplus to imply the prosperity of the country generally, we shall be compelled to state a few plain truths. We should accept such talk of prosperity unquestioningly, if this surplus were utilized in remitting taxation, or in alleviating poverty, or doing some permanent good to the people of India, such as easing the difficulty felt by middle class men in making both ends meet because of the prevailing high prices.

47. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 4th March ridicules the action of Govment in granting 2½ crores for Education, while more than 5 per cent. of the population is in the fell grip of plague and malaria and cholera and small-pox, and are sorely puzzled as to how to make a bare subsistence. It will all end in making an army of hungry locusts. And yet Government wants contentment to reign all over India. It is all supremely ridiculous. No matter whether there be food for their stomachs or not, let them be educated, let there be more hungry pandits in the country. This is what our rulers want. To be serious, the grant of 1½ crore for sanitation is utterly inadequate. There are other points also in the way Government spends its money, which are funny. Irrigation works yield 8 or 10 per cent. to Government per annum, while railways return a bare 4 per cent. So let 14 crores be spent on railways and not half that on irrigation works. If the silted up rivers in Bengal be canalised, Government can reap a rich profit therefrom. But Government cannot spend a pice on that, and is eager to build more Railways in Bengal It is all really inexplicable.

NAYAK, Mar. 4th, 1913.

Ibid.

Lastly, there is to be an outlay of 2 crores on the new Delhi, but still the permanent Capital will not be built. When after all, is it to be built? It is all very suspicious. Perhaps after all, Simla will be the Capital of India and Delhi will be a temporary head-quarters for Government for 2½ months in winter.

48. On the same subject, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 8th March says:—

BASUMATI, Mar. 8th, 1913.

Ibid.

The increase in the export of hide indicates increase of slaughter of animals and cattle plague.

The gunny-making industry in this country being mainly in the hands of foreigners, it simply increases foreign capital. The money which the Indian gets by selling raw materials is returned by him to foreigners by purchasing foreign articles. The enormous increase of import trade proves this beyond dispute. Last year, almost all the clothing which the Indians wore and the greater part of the sugar of which they ate, were imported from foreign countries.

We thank the Government for its munificent educational grant, but we think that it should be more attentive to sanitation. India's wealth is in agriculture. Indians are, therefore, mainly rural people. Village sanitation, therefore, ought to draw the attention of the Government first of all The river system in Bengal stands urgently in need of improvement. But the budget is silent over the matter. Government has granted 1½ crores of rupees for sanitary improvements in cities. The cities are the seats of European merchants and centres of administration. We do not grudge the money granted for their improvement. But Government ought not to have altogether neglected sanitation of villages.

49. We are opposed to spending enormous sums of money on railways for reasons which we have set forth many times before.

SANJIVANI, Mar. 6th, 1913.

The Financial Statement.

Referring Sir Guy Fleetwood Wilson's budget speech, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 6th March speaks highly of Sir Guy as an honest, just, large-hearted and courageous man, who has never shrunk from opposing even the Governor-General whenever he has thought proper to do so. He, continues the writer, has referred to his impending retirement from the service of the Government of India in a sorrowful tone. We too are extremely sorry at the news.

Apropos of the budget estimates, the paper takes occasion to remark that the Government of India is trying to utilize barren lands in the Punjab and the Bombay and Madras Presidencies, by excavating canals. Bengal has plenty of rivers so that there is no burren land in the country. But these rivers are silting up, so that a short time hence many places in the country will be unfit for cultivation for want of water. Should not remedial steps be taken from even now?

NAYAK, Mar. 6th, 1913.

The duty on Kerosene oil.

50. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 6th March considers the duty on Kerosene as highly oppressive on poor people, and says that it should be replaced by duties on such things as tea and tobacco.

NAYAK. Mar. 6th, 1913.

Smoking by boys.

51. Referring to the injury which the free use of cigarettes is causing among boys and young men, the *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 6th March says:—

In every civilized country, boys under sixteeen years of age is prohibited by law from smoking. Many Natives State in India, also, have most probably similar laws. When will such a law be passed in British Dominions as well?

HITAVADI, Mar. 7th, 1913.

The Government Central Press.

52. Continuing its criticisms of the management of the Government Centeral Press, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th March writes:—

We said on the last occasion that Mr. Meikle's piano, carriage, etc., were sent to Delhi at the public cost. Efforts are now being made to hush the matter up. Probably, care will be taken to save prestige by making out a bill and getting Mr. Meikle to pay it. But we hope the Controller will not permit such tricks.

Adverting to the subject of the Government contract with Rai Saheb Messrs. Gulab Singh and Sons we may point out that, on page 212 of the schedule of rates, there is in one place no rate printed. On page 215 in the last column of "Binding" in class X, there is a rate entered as Rs. 9-8 which should be annas 8. Then again, "Banding," a process which, till Messrs. Gulab Singh became the contractors, used to be treated as part of storage and distribution, is now paid for separately at the rate of two annas 11 pies for every 100 packets. That means an extra charge of 6 or 7 thousand rupees each year. What justification is there for this new payment, which George Allen and Co. never got?

53. The *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 1st March writes that there are to be new Universities at Patna and Rangoon, besides the one proposed at Dacca. There are to be new High Courts also for Bihar and Burma. These changes, whatever good they may do to the country, are certain to provide many new fat berths for Europeans and thereby aggravate the popular dis content in the country.

JASOHAR, Mar. 1st, 1913.

New Universities and High Courts.

54. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th March writes that the Co-operative Credit Societies in Bengal are working so that ere long agriculturists will be freed from debt and proceed along the path of improvement, making money by adopting scientific farming.

HITAVADI, Mar. 7th, 1913.

Co-operatives Credit Societies in Bengal.

55. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 8th March is glad to hear that Babu Nistaran Banerji is going to be appointed a High Court Judge. The fearlessness and impartiality which he displayed in the Dumraon case ought to make him an ornament to the Bench. Besides, it will serve as a recognition of the so long neglected claims of distinguished members of the Provincial Judcial Service to High Court Judgeships.

BANGAVASI, Mar. 8th, 1913.

Babu Nistaran Banerji, as a Judge of the High Court.

56. The shooting of a *sadhu* at Brindavan by some Englishmen, writes the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 6th March, has greatly agitated the public mind. We have received information from Brindavan that shooting is still continuing there. Many Englishmen, and sometimes even Indians, are going out shooting peacocks. We request the Government at once to stop this evil practice.

SANJIVANI. Mar. 6th, 1913.

Shooting at Brindavan, Muttra.

57. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 6th March highly commends His Highness the Aga Khan's evidence before the Public Service Commission on the subject of the means of recruiting the Indian Civil Service, and says that every thoughtful man will agree with what His Highness has said.

SANJIVANI. Mar. 6th, 1913.

The Aga Khan's evidence before the Islington Commission.

58. In discussing Mr. D. J. Maepherson's evidence before the Islington Commission given at Delhi, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 8th March writes:—

BANGAVASI, Mar. 8th, 1913.

Mr. D. J. Maepherson's evidence before the Islington Commission.

Mr. Macpherson has betrayed his ignorance of many things Indian. He says that Indians are not good as organizers As the *Patrika* has pointed out, Indians organized the Post Office where Englishmen failed. And to take older instances, what foreigner can equal Todar Mull as an organizer? Who again has equalled Janaki Nath, who in the days of Ali Verdi Khan, reorganized the administration of Bengal out of chaos? And, further, what Indian, given office under Government, has yet failed? They have served as clerks and as Members of the Council of India with equal credit. Mr. Macpherson says that Europeans dislike serving under Indians. Why then do they accept service in the Native States? As Mr. Meredith Townsend wrote:—

"A herdsman built a monarchy in Baroda. A body servant founded the dynasty of Scindia. A corporal cut his way to the independent crown of Mysore. The first Nizam was only an officer of the Emperor. Runjeet Singh's father was, what Europeans would call a prefect. There were literally hundreds who founded principalities, thousands of their potential rivals, thousands more who succeeded a little less grandly, conquerred estates, or became high officers under the new princes."

To quote the testimony of another powerful European writer:—

"Given fair-play, Indian administrators would, in their way, and so far as circumstances permitted, have become the equals of Bismarck, of Cavour, of Gortschakoff, of Gladstone, or of Disraeli.

59. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th March narrates how Mr. G. C. Sankey, Subdivisional officer of Karimganj, while out on tour, lately visited Pathankandi. Here on the morning of the 27th January last at 8 A.M. from the dak bungalow he sent out a *chit* asking the local Sub-Registrar, Mufti Ajruddin, to see him at 9 A.M. Just before 9 he despatched a chaprassi reminding the Sub-Registrar of his previous order. On receipt of this second summons the Sub-Registrar promptly came up and,

HITAVADI, Mar. 7th, 1913.

Mr. Sankey, Subdivisional officer of Karimganj.

after duly saluting the Shahib, was going to seat himself on a chair, when he was interrupted by Mr. Sankey thus:—

"What is that? Why are you going to sit down? I did not ask you to seat yourself—remain standing please, and say what you have to say in defence of yourself," whereupon the following colloquy took place:—

Sub-Registrar—"What have I done? I am quite at a loss to understand it all."

Mr. Sankey—"Well, here I have been at Pathankandi for five days and why did you not come up to see me once all this time?"

Sub-Registrar—"As I had no business with you I did not see any necessity to see you. I do not like to see anybody unless I have business with him."

Mr. Sankey—"Do you take me for a sweeper?" This query was repeated twice or thrice).

Sub-Registrar—"Wherein have I offended, Sir?"

Thereupon Mr. Sankey loudly, and with angry gestures, bade the Sub-Registrar quit his bungalow forthwith.

This is the report which has been given us and which we ask Sir A. Earle to look into. An inquiry is needed, if only to prove Mr. Sankey's innocence.

BANGAVASI, Mar. 8th, 1913.

60. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 8th March notices the incident described above, and similarly asks for an official inquiry into its truth or otherwise.

Ibid.

BASUMATI, Mar. 8th, 1913.

61. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 8th March is sorry at the postponement of gold coining in India till the completion of the work of the Commission on India Office Finance.

Gold coining in India.

III.—LEGISLATION.

HITAVADI, Mar. 7th, 1913.

62. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th March is amazed and alarmed at the new Conspiracy Bill. It is an unnecessary law. The way the police have been acting for the past few years affords ample justification for alarm being felt by Indians if this Bill becomes law. There is no telling how many innocent men will be harassed by them if they get hold of this new weapon. We hope the Viceroy will abandon this Bill, and thereby justify his statement made at the time of the Delhi outrage that he would be no party to a policy of repression.

The Conspiracy Bill.

NAYAK Mar. 7th, 1913.

63. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 7th March has the following:—

Government is sure to frame such laws as are necessary for the good government of the country. It does not become the ruled to obstruct or protest against the rulers in this respect. Specially, when the Conspiracy Bill received the support of big *ladus*-eating Babus, when it was introduced in the Legislative Council at Delhi, why should the Government heed anything that we may say? Only Surendra Babu and Sir Raghava Chariar of Madras opposed the Bill. Consequently, we desist from opposing it. We shall, however, ask a few questions:—

Ibid.

(1) Will the Hindusthani and Pathan or Beluchi policemen in Eastern Bengal be able to work rightly with the help of this law? They do not know the language of the country, they do not know the people of the country, they are not allowed a place in respectable society, no one lets them into any secret. In this state of things, work cannot be properly carried on in accordance with the proposed law. On the other hand, meek and innocent people will be crushed by the force of this law, and discontent will increase in the country.

(2) The more the police is losing its capacity to detect thieves and dacoits the more are laws being made stringent, and the more laws are being made stringent the more are thefts and dacoities increasing. We had heard from our grandmother's father that, in olden days, dacoity used to be committed after issuing letters, and now when we are entering into mature age we see that

dacoity, after issue of letters, has again begun to take place. Will the force of any law be able to stop this?

(3) Formerly, things were cheap and the police used to take bribes openly. Consequently, police officers could build palatial buildings for themselves. And now, although the scale of pay of police officers has not been much improved and they have become well-educated and things have become dear, and we hear Sahebs say that they no longer take bribes as before, yet even Sub-Inspectors of Police build palatial buildings and live in high style. So long as the round thing, the Rupee, *Sudarshana Chakra**, as it were, of Bhagavan, will retain its hold on the society, so long as rich people only will be honoured in society as at present, so long money will hide many sins, no matter how strong laws may be made, and whether or not the police is all-powerful. Unless the character of men is improved, the force of law alone will never give good government to the country. Will not, therefore, the proposed law fail in its object?

* The discus which is Vishnu's weapon.

Your police, or the common run of rulers, do not show even a tenth part of the education, the cleverness and the ability which anarchists show. The result is that you are defeated at every step and the anarchists win at every step. In this state of things the force of laws alone cannot destroy or check anarchism. Why has not the Delhi bomb outrage been traced as yet? Why is no case of dacoity in Bengal being traced? Do you want to say that it is the fault of the existing law which is causing this? We believe that you have not efficient detectives under you or, if you have, you cannot pick them out. May be that you trust nobody or that you trust someone who is a mere sycophant. Anarchists have, on their side, men who will lay down their lives for their work, while on your side everybody is careful not to risk his life in his work. In this state of things, will framing of laws alone be of any effect?

We have already said, and we still say, that the purpose for which the Bill has been framed has our support. But we again ask, why did not the Calcutta police obtain any information about the Muraripukur bomb manufactory when half Calcutta knew of its existence? We cannot speak out everything, nor is it expedient that we should speak out everything. But every reader will understand that there are many funny things in the inside. We want that this inside should be pure and untainted. We want the English to maintain their power intact and rule the country in a righteous way, we want that the English may not be deceived by anybody or that nobody may have his interest served by befooling them. Frame laws if you like, harden your rule if you like, but pray do not oppress innocent people, do not widen the course of corruption. This is the prayer we make with joined palms. May you be victorious, may prosperity attend on you. But do not become low, mean-minded and vindictive. You are a race of world-conquering heroes. Rule the country with the liberality and grace becoming heroes. May God fulfil this desire of ours.

64. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 7th March opposes the Conspiracy Bill as not likely to achieve the purpose aimed at. It will merely enlarge the powers of the police. It is to be hoped that Government will at least introduce safeguards and reservations intended to prevent the abuse of such powers by the police.

DAINIK CHANDRIKA, Mar. 7th, 1913.

The Conspiracy Bill.

65. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 8th March, while recognizing the probability that the Conspiracy Bill will be passed into law, appeals to the Viceroy to avoid such alarming legislation since the existing law provides against such offences already. The police, armed with new and extensive powers by this law, will misuse them and create serious mischief. The prospect is most alarming.

BANGAVASI, Mar. 8th, 1913.

Ibid.

66. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 6th March says:—

AWANDA BAZAR PATRIKA, Mar. 6th, 1913.

Ibid.

The public is not aware of any circumstance which justifies an addition on the Indian Statute Book in the form of the proposed Conspiracy law. People are afraid that the execution of the new law will be entrusted to the Criminal Investigation Department officers and, consequently, they will be oppressed. Of course, it cannot be believed that the Government of India will intentionally promulgate any law calculated to cause troubles to people. But the very expression, Conspiracy

law, is frightening. If three men make a conspiracy, thirty-three crores of men may be implicated in it. The reports we have been hearing of Conspiracies during the last few years, confirms this fear on our part. We shall be heartily glad to see real offenders punished, but any law which will vest short-sighted and reputation-hunting Criminal Investigation Department officers with large powers and thus give them opportunities to roam like lions in the society, cannot but be regarded as dangerous. Government and the High Court have ample experience of such officers accusing innocent people of grave charges on the word of spies only. What the result, therefore, will be of vesting them with still larger powers is a matter for gave consideration and serious apprehension. The promulgation of a new law is justified only when circumstances demand it. In India, however, conspiracies of the type which the new law is intended to suppress are rare. Consequently, there is the danger of its proving oppressive to people.

We have been astonished to find the new Bill introduced into the Delhi Council shortly after the announcement by Lord Hardinge that the outrage on him would effect no change in the liberal policy of his administration.

Suppose the police first arrest two men as conspirators, next search their houses, arrest the people who have correspondence with them, next search the houses of these people and arrest others who have correspondence with them and so on. In this manner the new law may be an instrument of great oppression in the hands of the police even by mistake. Should not the Legislators take steps to prevent this?

It has been urged that the new law will simply bring the Indian Criminal law on a line with the English Criminal law. But in England accused persons are tried by juries consisting of their own countrymen, while in India they are tried by District Magistrates or Judges only. From whatever point of view the proposed law may be considered, there is ample ground for its frightening the public mind. In our opinion there is no necessity for passing it.

BASUMATI, Mar. 8th, 1913.

The Conspiracy Bill.

67. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 8th March says that the administration of India was not much worse for the absence of a law like the proposed one. It is rumoured that the new law is the result of the release of the so-called political dacoits arrested by the police, and is intended to being them to punishment. There is, however, no ground for the belief that the released persons are actually guilty. They were released because the evidence produced by the police had failed to establish their guilt. People are fraid that the new law will make the police dangerously powerful. It is no argument in favour of the promulgation of the new law that a similar law exists in England, for in that case it becomes necessary to introduce the English jury system also in this country. In conclusion, the writer says that, if the police in India is vested with still larger powers than what they now possess, discontent will manifest itself in various ways in the country.

SANJIVANI, Mar 6th, 1913.

Ibid.

68. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 6th March says:—

Not a single repressive measure has as yet been passed in Lord Hardinge's regime. The period of passing such measures ended with Lord Minto's rule. Have the severe measures passed in Lord Minto's time produced any good? The present repressive measure, namely, the Conspiracy Bill, was framed while Lord Hardinge was on sickbed. Now that His Excellency has got back his health, we hope that he will never give his assent to it. Severe laws simply cast discredit on the Government. They can never bring the offender to punishment.

HITAVADI, Mar. 7th, 1913.

Companies Bill.

69. In discussing the Companies Bill the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th March writes:—

There is a stamp duty of half a per cent. charged on all share-transfer deeds, and to evade payment of this duty many shareholders of joint stock companies when buying shares from an old shareholder do not get the old names changed and their own names put in. These new shareholders accordingly take no part in electing Directors and the management of the company generally. Why should not the law compel all new shareholders to register their names as such in the books of a company within six months of purchasing the shares?

VI.—Miscellaneous.

70. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 6th March has the following :— Nayak, Mar. 6th, 1913.

"Babu Bhupendranath" BABU BHUPENDRANATH.

The First Point.

It seems that Babu Bhupendranath, who has narrowly missed becoming Hon'ble, will grow mad or that he is growing mad or that he has already grown mad. When the Capital was removed from Calcutta we said—ah, what a riddance, the Babus will no longer be able to bluster before humble folk after having had a walk round the Government House. But although Lord Hardinge has gone away, Lord Carmichael is here, so that there still remains ample opportunity for blustering. We hear from people that Babu Bhupendranath called his friends and confidentially told them that Lord Carmichael, with his own mouth, expressed his sorrow at Babu Bhupendranath's defeat to the following effect:—

"It is a matter of great regret, Bhupendra Babu, that you have been defeated this time. You geatly depended on the goodness of your friend, Surendra Babu. He has not done well by acting treacherously towards you."

We want to know whether Lord Carmichael actually said this to Babu Bhupendranath. If he did not, and we believe that he did not, then why does Bhupendranath circulate such a lie in his name? Will Mr. Gourlay give us a reply to this question?

The Second Point.

Bhupendra Babu has told a friend of ours that he is not responsible for the article which has appeared in the *Amrita Basar Patrika*, that the article was published without his knowledge. In this connection we shall ask him the following three questions:—

(1) Did he not write a letter to Babu Gopal Lal Ghosh? In that letter was not the request made that articles should be written in the *Patrika* on the basis of the articles which had appeared in the *Basumati*?

(2) Did not Babu Hemendraprasad Ghosh translate the article in the *Basumati* into English? Did not Babu Hemendraprasad take this translation to the *Patrika* office and leave it there with instructions as regards "points" for writing articles?

(3) Does not Babu Hemendraprasad go to his house almost every morning and get all sorts of ideas and expressions from his own mouth? Was there no talk of getting articles written in the *Patrika*? If Bhupendra Babu wants to pose as a thoroughly innocent man, let him remove our doubts.

The Third Point.

Bhupendranath also denies that he had any hand in the removal of Babu Suresh Chandra Samajpati from the *Basumati* staff. It is true that Suresh Chandra had tendered his letter of resignation on the 9th *Agrahay an* last and that he resigned on the 16th *Paus*. (Here a line is illegible so that the sentence cannot be translated) Could not Upendra Nath keep Suresh Chandra on the *Basumati* staff had he so desired? It was out of a feeling of wounded pride that Suresh had tendered his letter of resignation. It would not have been difficult for Upendra Nath to remove the cause of that feeling. Why did not Upendra Nath show, at the begnning of *Paus*, the amount of eagerness and desire to retain the services of Suresh Chandra which he had shown towards the end of *Agrahyan*? Could not Upendra Nath satisfy Suresh had he so desired? We are bound by an oath and so cannot disclose everything to the public. But we still say with emphasis that it was simply in compliance with Bhupendrnath's desire that full effort was not made for keeping Suresh Chandra on the *Basumati* staff. Bhupendranath may now try to pose as a thoroughly innocent man, and he may be able to impose upon Suresh Chandra in this connection. But we are not prepared to be imposed upon so easily. We have

never known and recognized Bhupendranath to be a very intelligent and far-sighted man. He is a fortunate man, and fortune has favoured him so long; everything that he has done has gone well for him. But henceforward he will be detected at every step.

The Last Point.

The last point is, let the Maharaja Bahadur of Natore now disclose the truth by publishing a letter. Did he not say that he would not give his votes to anybody but a Brahmin? Did Surendra Babu send him any letter or telegram? Very well, we shall ask one thing. Did not Bhupendra Nath send telegrams to Members in the mufassal to the effect: "For Heaven's sake, for God's sake, do not forsake me, Vote for me." Say openly who did receive such telegrams, To whom did Surendra Babu write letters? Did he write to Prasanna Babu for two votes? If he did not, let him say so openly, If he cannot say so through the *Bengalee* let him say so through the *Nayak*. The *Nayak* has now assumed the rôle of the incarnation known as Nrisinha (half-man and half-lion)* and it will tear open the entrails of Hiranyakasipu. It will now be of no avail on our brother's part to speak of our friendship.

*The Asura for whose destruction Vishnu incarnated himself as a beast half-man and half-lion

NAYAK, March 4th, 1913.

Sedition and the *Englishman*.

71. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 4th March writes:—The *Times* of London has been saying much the same thing that the *Nayak* has been saying about the Islington Commission and the Delhi bomb outrage. Why then should the *Englishman* presume to include the whole Bengali press in the sweeping range of its abuse? The reason probably is that its wise editor, Mr. Sandbrook, has been replaced by Mr. Newman of "Barisal Stare" notoriety.

To return to the main point, we do not yet know what sedition really means. The Bengali history of the Sepoy War by the late Rajani Kanta, supports the mutinous sepoys and proclaims the infamy of the Company's rule and of the English people. Panchkari Babu's history of the Sepoy Mutiny finds fault at every step with the Sepoys who had risen against Government, and nowhere at all blames the English people. Nevertheless, Panchkari Babu's book was confiscated and Rajani Gupta's work let alone. No one has yet explained how this decision was come to.

Then again, when the announcement was made that Delhi was to be the future Capital of India, the *Statesman* made use of language which the *Hitavadi* did not publish in its article *Kimascharyyamatahparam*. The *Hitavadi* merely dwelt on the incompetency of the police, while the Anglo-Indian paper indulged in rank abuse of the highest officials. The *Hitavadi's* statements could have been easily proved in Court as true. Nevertheless, the *Daily Hitavadi* was made to stop circulating, while the *Statesman* continues as before to reap profits from official advertisements, like the pampered pet that it is. Language and sentiment like those indulged in by Messrs. Shorrock and N. McLeod on the occasion of the transfer of the Capital from Calcutta, never found expression from the lips of a Bengali. In fact, a Bengali showing a fourth of the same acerbity of feeling, will find himself in trouble at every step.

What then is sedition? Let Lord Carmichael answer this query. Let it be explicitly said that what is permissible for the White man is not so for the Black man. Let it be said that what Mr. Shorrock may say in the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Mazhar-ul-Hukk may not say in the Council Hall. Let it be said that the *Statesman's* abuse may be put up with, but the statement of the truth by the *Hitavadi* cannot be tolerated. Let it be said that for the Black the proper things to do is to bow low and respectfully to every saheb. and yield unquestioning obedience to his commauds. But this is not what you do say as a matter of fact. You profess that Whites and Blacks are all "fellow-citizens of the Empire." This is what you all say, from Lord Curzon to Sir Guy Wilson. And yet in practice, you make a world of difference between Black and White. In giving evidence before the Islington Commission, you demand that the White element should preponderate in the services. But the time is come when the truth must be spoken, when you must state what measure of rights at most we Blacks may expect from you, how much of liberty is permissible to the Black editor and how much to the White one. Blacks will

no longer be captivated by any and every declaration, however unrestrainedly hopeful and sweet.

We shall now talk of our own duties. There are many people in the country who can furnish information regarding thieves, dacoits and the *bomb-wallas*. But why should they ? In what way can you claim to have behaved so well towards the people of the country that they will despise their own lives, and come forward to help you ? It is our firm belief that many of you do not want to know the truth at all, that your policemen do not want to catch hold of the real offenders. Many of you are prone only to working towards getting up a big case, which will entail no end of expense on Government The European masters ruling over the Inspector and Sub-Inspectors of Police are not so competent as the latter. We have already said that personal service, or service accompained with flattery to an individnal, counts for much in these days. So those who cannot stoop to such flattery of an individual, go on discharging their duties in a lifeless routine fashion. As already said what one Indian does, another Indian is bound to know. Many of your Black servants know many things. But they find placed over them any number of fatly-paid sycophants, so they do not speak out. So far as we know, we can say that the Delhi Bomb outrage would easily have been traced to its perpetrators, but it was, so to say, not done deliberately, clues obtained being deliberately dropped. Such being the case, how can the people and their leaders co-operate with you ? When people find that, in a matter of life and death, ignorance is being deliberately feigned, they naturally stand aloof from it. Individual police officers are behaving in such an assinine way at every step, as to excite ridicule. You go on making fresh laws, enlarging the powers of the police, but that will not avail. It is rather doing harm, in that it is affording fresh opportunities for corruption to dishonest policemen, and offenders are escaping penalty for their offences in many cases by the help of such corruption. Have you ever made any honest effort to improve the competence of the police ? Have yon ever given unasked and unsolicited the promotion to an efficient policemen to which he is justly entitled ? It is because you did not act righteously and dutifully in the past in all cases, that you now find yourselves taken at a disadvantage at every step. That is why dacoities are now so unduly rife in Eastern Bengal, why innocent men are being harassed, why the annoyance caused by police spies is driving even honest men to turn dacoits. We have spoken the truth many times, and we cannot think that all that we write is translated into English. For we know that Governors-General and Governors and Lieutenant-Governors all read the opinions of the *Nayak* but nevertheless they fail to pierce anybody's rhinoceros-hide. Nobody displays any anxiety to know that of which we cannot speak publicly. Rather they produce a contrary effect, for papers like the *Englishman* publish only silly and offensive remarks on them. It was the *Nayak* which first of all published an article on the duties of our leaders after the Delhi Bomb outrage. And all English papers, from the *Times* and the *Englishman* downwards, are now publishing a *réchauffé* of that article, without any of them so much as mentioning the *Nagak* by name. Is not this enough to make one angry ? We feel inclined to indulge in abuse at it all. We have hinted at many things to-day. It would be well if the *Englishman* came to its senses on reading what we have said : if not we shall undertake a thorough public exposure, we shall reveal what were the remarks made by individual English residents of Calcutta on the morrow of the Delhi outrage ; we shall try to tear off the veil of your feigned ignorance and explain what is inside. Know that this is no empty threat—Bengalis are never remiss in discharging their duties as subjects : no other Indian race in fact desires the welfare of English rule in the same measure that they do. This is a truth you may not understand now, but will realize sometime or other. Bengalis are genuinely attached to the English, educated Bengalis are in truth half Englishmen. Do not your silly and mischievous ways cast him off from you. Let the *Englishman* know that it is because of it that anarchy is so rife in Bengal. If it goes to extremes, the effects are likely to be most serious. Beware !

72. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 8th March writers :— NAYAK, Mar. 8th, 1913.

"Why (persist) further." Why persist further?

You have tried every means in all possible ways. And not only have you tried, you have lost at every step, every move

ended in a checkmate. Why then persist further? Cast your eyes now towards your ewn home, try now once again to be genuine Bengalis. If after all your bitter experiences, your losses, you do not correct yourselves, then indeed you cannot be far from ruination. We shall narrate, point by point, how and why you have been losers:—

The effort you made after the Partition of Bengal to preach boycott and *swadeshi* in co-operation with the zemindars of the Presidency, collapsed after a few threats. (1) The zeminders were first threatentd, whereupon they stood aloof, managing anyhow to save their caste, so to speak, by tabooing the whole thing. (2) Your leaders were threatned in connection with picketing and boycott, as a result of which they signed a bond of servitude to Sir Andrew Fraser. In fact, slowly and gradually the Babus came to avoid even the bare mention of boycott. (3) Deportation was another form which the threats took. This threat made eberybody hasten to abjure the opinions which had given offence, and generally brought on a spirit of utter lifelessness and inertness over the country.

You sought, in your political discussions, a means of establishing unity at least professedly and that also has been spoiled by three devices.

(1) The first was the *Dakkha-Yajna* affair at the Surat Congress. (2 When Lord Morley, from his auspicious lips, sent out the call to "Rally the moderates and repress the extremists," even Surendra and Bhupendra turned moderates. (3) The expansion of the Legislative Councils has resulted in undoing Congresses and Conferences, and creating a spirit of jealousy between Surendra and Bhupendra, and makIng Dr. Rashbehari roll on the ground.

The transfer ef the Capital to Delhi and the relegation of Bengal to a back seat, so to speak, have considerably restricted the scope of the political agitation of the Bengalis. What will you say? You will be overborne by the number of votes against you. Dick and Harry, every one of them, is now an Hon'ble Member of Council. There is no want of men now ready to snub Surendranath, Madan Mohan and Gokhale. Your own compatriots protest against what you say. With what face can you then take up a determined stand before the Viceroy or the Governor?

You seek unity but actually bring about disunion. In the single institution of the Congress, there is the faction of Mehta, Gokhale, of Tllak, Arabinda, of Surendra, Bhupendra, of Lajpat Rai, Aswini, not to mention other minor factions. And things reached a climax when Surendra and Bhupendra quarelled over their candidature for the Imperial Council. This is indeed the highest proof of unity. That is why we were saying, why persist any further? Throw off your veil. Achieving unity is a work of self-sacrifice and not of enjoyment, it will never be brought about by Babus who love bodily ease.

In the matter of social reform also, you Babus are in the most backward state. You have not been able to achieve even a tenth of the work which the Arya Samaj is doing; which Sir Narayan Chandravarkar and other men in the Deccan are doing, which Mr. Gokhale has inaugurated. With you, the apparent signs of social reform are license in the matter of food, a vile taste in the matter of dress, the use of a hybrid language, and generally a most stupid habit of imitation. You cannot manage to marry your widows, or to popularise a system of inter-caste marriages, or facilitate the uplifting of the depressed classes. Those among you who are Brahmos and profess not to recognize any caste, do not in arranging marriages for their daughters, descend beyond the three highest castes of Brahmin, Vaidya and Kaistha, even to the Nabashaks, not to talk of bringing up the untouchable castes to their own level. Your Surendranath has not found himself able to marry his daughters into castes other than the Brahmin. Your Bhupendra Nath is the living image of a hypocrite of a reformer. By his professions he can secure a good deal ot popular applause, but, in practice, he is worse than a strictly orthodox Hindu.

In the sphere of literature also, you split up into factions. There are factions in the *Sahitya Sabha*, factions in the *Sahitya Parishad*, and there is a terrible faction in regard to the holding of the Literary Conference. Ours is a small country with a smaller handful of English-educated Babus, among whom a still smaller number take any interest, practical and theoretical, in the Bengali language. And this strictly limited number of men is split up into a hundred factions. There is the faction of Rabindranath and that of Dwijendranath, the faction of friends and the faction of foes. Besides, any amount

of mannerisms in literary style and systematic puffing of favourite authors are freely indulged in. The literary efforts of a strictly limited number of authors are read only by a slightly larger number of women-folk. This is the literature about which there is so much strife, so much angry feeling, so much faction. Just as beggars in Calcutta often keep newly-born infants lying beside them on the footpath to rouse the pity of the passer-by, and so increase their income, so you too are keeping this infant Bengali language lying on the footpath for business purposes, for purposes of making an income for yourselves. All your monthly, weekly journals are beggars' wallets in this sense. The books which you write are also simply devices to make a little income. You are needy people hungry for food, and that is why you create strife amongst yourselves in everything. There is no faction among petty thieves, faction can exist only amongst dacoits. Many of the Babus are petty thieves. That is why each of them constitutes a faction by himself, and claims to be a leader.

So why persist any further? Cast off your veil now. Imitating the English, you have come to be great politicians, you have indulged in a good deal of lament over fallen Chitor and fallen India. You have incessantly feigned grief for Bengali widows, you have brought out your girls and obstructively engrafted on them habits of the opposite sex. Bengali literature is supposed to be rich in a profusion of Bulwers and Byrons and Shelleys and Tennysons and Scotts and George Eliots. You sought to unite all India by the bonds of the Brahmo religion, but the Brahmos are now split up into three factions, at war with each other. In the *Arya Samaj* also there is a faction-feeling predominant. Bravo! you Bengalis have indeed done much to distinguish yourselves in the course of the last fifty years. Why persist any further? Throw off your veil. Return home and look out for means to save your life and honour.

We bow to you Englishmen in all respects. You are truly our *guru*, our rulers, our gods. English education has been a crucible which has melted the Bengali's pure gold, and turned out a fine necklace of alloy. You must indeed go on with this work, go on spending crores of rupees on this education, so that these 30 million men and women of India may be turned into monkeys. No matter whether they may have the wherewithal to live or not, to make a bare livelihood or not, they must acquire this curious English education. The principles of liberty and fraternity you have taught during these 50 years, have resulted in turning out a pack of cockatoos, who have begun to peck, so teach them now how to whistle and keeping them shut up in the golden cage of a Dacca University, under a cover, hear them whistling nicely. All praise to your intelligence. You are verily the preceptor of preceptors, the god of gods, the king of kings. May all success attend you! We are your loyal subjects who are captivated by the contemplation of your virtues. We shall feel intensely gratified if we can remain slaves of your slaves.

So we ask our Babus not to try conclusions with such a ruling race, let them humbly obey the commands of such rulers. Why persist any further, let them throw down the veil

A cartoon—the plight of the Congress party.

73. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 8th March publishes a cartoon in which the Congress party is represented as a lame, raw-boned jade on which rides a headless man through mire. A sign-post inscribed with the words "Colonial Self-Government" and on which sits a vulture and which is about to fall down is represented as the goal. The letter-press runs as follows:— BASUMATI, Mar. 8th, 1913.

The Congress party is leaderless, ruled by thousands and destitute of energy, enthusiasm and vigour.

In the last Legislative Council elections none but Surendranath was elected among the Congress leaders. Kishorimohan, son-in-law Jogesh, Mr. Rasul, Baikunthanath, and Jogendranath, all have been defeated.

The Balarampur marriage affair.

74. Referring to the Balarampur marriage affair and the strictures passed by the *Pioneer* on it, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 8th March says:— BASUMATI, Mar. 8th, 1913.

We request the Government to do something to prevent foolish Anglo-Indians from causelessly casting suspicion on all

people, high and low, and thus creating discontent in the country—from destroying the fruit of the sympathy which, His Imperial Majesty has said, is the fundamental principle of his rule in India.

HITAVADI, Mar. 7th, 1913.

75. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th March referring to the same incident writes:—

Ibid.

Our Indian princes are famous for their loyalty, courtesy and hospitality. But none the less the slightest act of remissness on their part makes the Anglo-Indian papers very angry with them, and they begin talking of annoyance and even insult to the King-Emperor being intended. Our readers know how the Gaekwar was sought to be brought into trouble by these worthy journals, in connection with the late Delhi Durbar. The *Pioneer's* recent attack on the Maharaja of Jeypur, again affords an inconceivable proof of a sense of racial superiority, making one blind to the troubles and difficulties of another man.

MOSLEM HITAISHI, Mar. 7th, 1913.

76. The *Moslem Hitaishi* Calcutta] of the 7th March writes that the Aga Khan has forfeited the sympathy of his co-religionists by his recent letter to the *Times of India* on the attitude of Indian Moslems towards the war. He forgets that all Moslems are bound to each other by a most serious bond, and with the welfare of Turkey is bound up the welfare of Moslems everywhere on earth.

The Aga Khan.

RAJENDRA CHANDRA SASTRI,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 15th March 1913.

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REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 15th March 1913.

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LIST OF NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS RECEIVED AND DEALT WITH BY THE BENGAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

[As it stood on 1st June 1912.]

No.	Name of Publication.	Where published.	Edition.	Name, caste and age of Editor.	Circulation.
1	"Amrita Basar Patrika"	Calcutta ...	Daily ...	Kali Prasanna Chatterji, age 48, Brahmin	1,500 to 4,000
2	"Bengalee"	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Surendra Nath Banerji and Kali Nath Roy.	6,500 to 8,500
3	"Hindoo Patriot" ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Srish Chandra Sarbadhikari, age 44, and Kailash Chandra Kanjilal, pleader, Small Cause Court, also contributes.	800 to 1,000
4*	"Indian Echo" ...	Ditto ...	Weekly ...	Kunja Behary Bose, age 45, Kayastha...	600
5	"Indian Empire" ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Kishori Mohan Banerji and H. Dutt ...	2,000
6	"Indian Mirror" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	Satyendra Nath Sen	1,000 to 1,500
7	"Indian Nation" ...	Ditto ...	Weekly ...	Naresh Chandra Sarbadhikari and Srish Chandra Sarbadhikari.	1,000
8	"Mussalman" ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	A. Rasul and M. Rahman	1,000 to 1,500
9	"Reis and Rayyet" ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Jogesh Chandra Dutt, age 61 years ...	400
10	"Telegraph" ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Satyendra Kumar Bose	2,000
11	"Herald" ...	Dacca ...	Do. ...	Priyo Nath Sen	...
12	"East" ...	Do. ...	Bi-weekly ...	.....	.....
13	"World's Messenger" ...	No. 18, Kali Prasad Chakrabarty's Street.	Monthly (English).	Raghu Probir Mitra (Hindu), age 22 years.	100 copies.
14	"Current Indian Cases" (a law paper).	No. 1-1, College Square, East.	Ditto ...	Monindra Nath Mitter and Brothers (Kayastha), age 32 years.	Ditto.

* Has not been published for the last six months, and most probably it will not be published again.

I.—Foreign Politics.

293. The accounts which the *Mussalman* has been publishing from time to time about the distress prevailing in Asia Minor and at places in European Turkey, among the civil populations, as the effect of the war, show that relief on an extensive scale is needed. The Ottoman Red Crescent Society seems to have directed its attention solely to attending the wounded soldiers and relieving their dependents, and the vast number of refugees—men, women and childern—who driven from their hearths and homes have not been taken any care of. The journal hopes it will not be misunderstood. It does not mean to cast any aspersion on the Ottoman Red Crescent Society. The work undertaken by it is gigantic in itself and it cannot perhaps divert its attention to any other direction. What is urged upon co-religionists and Indian Mussalmans is to bear in mind that the British Red Crescent Society, of which the Right Hon'ble Saiyid Ameer Ali is the president, is the only organization which has undertaken to relieve the acute distress among the refugees, but that Society has not received as much help from India as it ought to have got.

Turkish distress.

Mussalman, 7th Mar. 1913.

294. Referring to the speech of Sir James Meston delivered at Gorakhpore on the 25th ultimo, the *Mussalman* is afraid His Honour went out of his way to dictate to the Muhammadans what should be their attitude in regard to the present affairs in Turkey. His Honour says "Neither you nor I, at this distance, and in the comparative seclusion of India, can pretend to understand the delicate and complex problems of international policy, and it is most unjust to assume that because peace is not forced on the Balkan States the European nations are therefore hostile to Turkey." Sir James Meston may not understand the international policy, but the leaders of Moslem thought in India, who have been studying that policy for a long time, do well understand it and the opinion they hold is not without due deliberation. Whether peace should be forced on the Balkan States or not is a different question, but there is no doubt that European nations as a class (there may be solitary exceptions are hostile to Turkey, and the recent utterances of some highly-placed Europeans have corroborated that view. Sir James Meston deplores "the unthinking language which some Muhammadan speakers and newspapers are using on the subject." Nobody will take His Honour's words seriously. Whether the language used by speakers and newspapers is "unthinking" or not, will be judged by the Indian public. The journal does not hold the brief for all the Muhammadan speakers and newspapers, but the language used by most of them is more moderate than what the circumstances of the case tempt one to use. Sir James Meston scoffs at the boycott of European goods, which has not yet been seriously proposed. It is not necessary to say anything about it at this stage. The movement to give preference to indigenous articles is quite harmless and the journal fails to see how any Government can prevent it and why it should be prevented.

Sir James Meston on the present affairs in Turkey.

Mussalman, 7th Mar. 1913.

295. The latest telegrams from Constantinople, remarks the *Bengalee*, do not go to show that peace is imminent. If the belligerents have hitherto been divided over the question of Adrianople, they are still further divided over the question of a war indemnity. The Turkish Government, according to recent despatches from Constantinople, are now said to be reconciled to the surrender of Adrianople, but they are resolute in resisting an indemnity. The demand for an indemnity, in fact, is not only of recent origin, but is so extravagant and unreasonable in its character that it is scarcely surprising that Turkey should resolutely oppose it. A war idemnity, apart from its manifest injustice in the present case, would be a cruel and intolerable burden upon the already overburdened Turkish tax-payer and would still further aggravate the financial crisis in Turkey. There is another point of difference between Turkey and the Allies. While the latter are anxious to treat directly with Turkey, Turkey is anxious to negotiate through the Powers.

The Balkan war.

Bengalee, 8th Mar. 1913.

BENGALEE, 14th Mar. 1913.

296. The war seems to have entered upon a new phase, observes the *Bengalee*. On the one hand, Bulgarians have been fighting Greeks at a village called Nigrita and official despatches show that the fighting has been very serious. The matter, indeed, has assumed such proportions that the Bulgarian and Greek Governments have taken it in hand, and are sending Commissions to the spot. On the other hand it is stated that Austria has taken steps in London with a view to inducing the Powers collectively to demand from Belgrade an explanation of the despatch of additional troops to Durazzo after the Ambassadors had agreed to recognise the independence of Albania. Again, at Belgrade itself the Austrian Minister has protested against the despatch of Servian troops to the assistance of the Montenegrins at Scutari and has requested that they be re-called. The representation has so far only elicited the reply that Servia was bound to assist her Allies irrespective of the fate of Scutari. It is not surprising in view of these new developments that the Allies should be as anxious to terminate the war as Turkey. The *Mir*, a semi-official journal at Sofia, states that the Allies have decided to accept the mediation of the Powers on the basis of the conditions laid down in London *plus* an indemnity. This means in undiplomatic language that the Allies are anxious that hostilities should cease. It was said only three or four days ago that the Allies would prefer negotiating direct with Turkey. The sudden change of mind cannot fail to strike both Turkey and the Powers as significant. The journal is convinced that the longer the war continues the better will it, in one sense, be for Turkey. The Allies are bound to quarrel among themselves, as some of them are already beginning to quarrel, and those Powers who have their interests to preserve in the Balkan Peninsula are bound ultimately to take sides. And every difficulty felt by the Allies will be one more opportunity for Turkey.

A new phase in the war.

BENGALEE, 13th Mar. 1913.

297. The *Bengalee* says that His Majesty's Government are to be congratulated on their definite abandonment of the idea of a temporary occupation of Persian territory, which would have infallibly led to permanent occupation. "Our desire," said Lord Crewe in the course of the debate on the Address, "is to help Persia to restore order, in preference to taking the whole business out of their hands. It is quite true that when a murder such as that of Captain Eckford is committed and with impunity, British prestige must suffer or appear to suffer, but the disadvantages of a British expedition are so great, and the consequence so obscure and possibly dangerous, that we have staved it off as long as we can, and hope to stave it off altogether." This is the policy which all who are anxious for the good name of England have always desired His Majesty's Government to follow. If the two Powers principally concerned in Persia had from the beginning followed this policy—the policy of helping Persia to restore order instead of taking the business out of her hands—and if they had carried this policy to its practical conclusion, things in Persia would undoubtedly have been very different from what they are to-day. But instead of this what one of the two Powers, Russia, did was to follow a policy of annexation, and Sir Edward Grey allowed Russia, at any rate in the early stages of the development of her policy, to do very much what she liked.

Lord Crewe on Persia.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(*a*)—*Police.*

TELEGRAPH, 8th Mar. 1913.

298. There can be no questioning the fact that dakaities are very much on the increase in all parts of Bengal and Burma. Of course the *Telegraph* knows that a number of these crimes in Eastern Bengal are ascribed by the police to *bhadralogs* and regarded as political offences. The idea, however, is that a dakaiti is a dakaiti whether committed by educated or illiterate people. It is an offence against property and person and deserves to be put down with a heavy hand. The result is the same, the enormity the same, the loss the same. It is the perpetrators in both cases who should be run to earth. But unfortunately, dakaities

Dakaities.

seem to be beyond the power of the police to prevent or to detect. It is no doubt a very good pretext to call them political offences, but that does not help the public or render them less liable to loss and torture. What is wanted is their detection, though prevention would be very much better. The journal remembers reading of Mr. Baker's reply to Sir J. D. Rees to the effect that the Bengal Government has been adopting special measures to suppress the crime, by increasing the subordinate police, establishing a River Police system, creating a fleet of police launches of shallow draught. But it is not known whether these have been given effect to. If they have, the paper cannot call the measures adequate because there has been no appreciable change in the circumstances. On the other hand, the evil is spreading. At first the crimes were confined to Dacca and Faridpur districts. Now the contagion is spreading to Pabna and other districts. Within the last week many scores of houses were raided simultaneously in several districts and a number of arrests was also made; but from past experience the paper is not at all sure that these will lead up to any results whatever. Other measures need to be adopted.

Sadhu shot at Brindaban.

299. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* states that in a village near Brindabun a *Sadhu* was shot dead by a European soldier and the matter was brought to the notice of the Government of the United Provinces, both through the press and public representation. Though the affair has shocked the Hindu community all over the country, they are quite in the dark as to what the Government has done or has been doing in the matter. It is really strange that no elected member of the local Council has as yet thought it proper to interpellate on the subject in the Council. The latest information from Brindaban is that the police enquiry has ended with what result no body knows.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 10th Mar. 1913.

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

The Jagatsi case.

300. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* learns from Silchar that the Commissioner, after having completed his report on the Jagatsi *Asram* enquiry, has submitted it to the Hon'ble Chief Commissioner. Of course the contents of the document are yet a sealed book to the outside public. The general impression is, that the Commissioner has thoroughly absolved the higher officials concerned from all responsibilities in the affair. It is further believed that the Military Police have been held accountable for all the atrocities committed on the *Asram* people. So far as the *Asram* witnesses are concerned, the Commissioner, it is said, has made no attempt to discredit their statements.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 10th Mar. 1913.

The Agra murder case.

301. On Monday, the 10th March observes the *Bengalee*, the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court delivered judgment in what is known as the Agra murder case. Both the principal accused were, as might have been expected, sentenced to death, but having regard to her condition, the sentence of death in the case of the woman was commuted to one of penal servitude for life. No sympathy will, the journal is convinced, be felt for either of the accused. Even those who are averse to the retention of capital sentence for most forms of crime for which it is still retained must admit that here at least was a case where the accused by their fiendish conduct, the deliberateness with which they planned and the cool calculation with which they worked from day to day to take the lives of two innocent persons had forfeited their right to live. They are, in very truth, as an Anglo-Indian journal has said in regard to one of them, monsters in human form and it is well that the world is to be rid of at least one of them.

BENGALEE, 12th Mar. 1913.

The Comilla dakaiti case.

302. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks that judgment was delivered in what is known as the Comilla dakaiti case on Wednesday the 12th March—the Judge convicting all the accused under section 402, Indian Penal Code, and sentencing each of them to the maximum punishment of seven years' imprisonment. It should be remembered that both the assessors, who sat with the Judge, found Ramesh Chandra Banarji, Kala Chand Ray and Sarbari Kanta not guilty. As regards Thakurdas, one of them held that he did not join the consultation, the other

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 14th Mar. 1913.

finding him not guilty. Yet, in the face of these verdicts, the Judge not only found them guilty but passed on them the maximum sentence! Had the case been tried in England, the Judge would have had no option but to acquit them. But here is an unique spectacle of the Judge acting just in opposition to their views! If the opinions of the assessors were to be treated in this cotemptuous way, what was the necessity at all of enacting the farce of two gentlemen attending at the trial as assessors day by day for over two weeks at so much personal sacrifice and inconvenience? The following passage will give one an idea of the judicial frame of the Judge's mind when writing his judgment. He says:—

"the recent events show it to be foolish of the police to rely too much on the assistance of the public when dealing with what may be called *bhadralog* desparadoes. They naturally are in such cases more than usually shy of acting precipitately as they know to what extent all their actions are likely to support them."

So here is a Judge, who is thoroughly executivized. Else he would not have flown off at a tangent to vent his spleen upon the so-called apathy of the much-maligned Indian public to help the police. Indeed, a perusal of these lines reminds one more of the typical administration report of an Inspecter-General of Police or the effusions of a rabid Anglo-Indian journal than a calm, cool, dispassionate, judicial utterance which, according to all known codes of Jurisprudence, should be characterised by sobriety and dignity. Then, as for the Comilla Judge practically libelling the children of the soil, as his observations clearly convey, well, it is not a very great feat on one's part to pelt stones at others from a safe coign of vantage.

(*d*)—*Education.*

HERALD 8th Mar. 1913.

Another High School for Mymensingh.

303. There seems to have arisen, remarks the *Herald*, at the present moment serious need for another good High School at Mymensingh, and there is enough room for it too. The Government High School has reached its utmost numerical limit, and the two recognised private schools which have greater freedom in the matter of increasing in magnitude may be said to be literally overflowing, and all the institutions after bearing the heaviest possible strain of numbers have for the last three years or so been driven to the cruel necessity of refusing many students regularly. This stuffing crowd in the already existing schools, therefore, seriously calls for the opening of a new High School in the town At the time when the town is growing favourably in dignity and importance in many directions, particularly in that of education itself, it would be quite fitting to have another High School run on respectable lines. There is not much dearth of public spirit and even of patriotic activity in the district. Should not one or two beneficently-minded men be inspired to put forth some energy and activity for supplying a very real and important public need of the district? Funds for meeting the increased demands for the proposed expansion of the college have already begun to be raised, and after this let the aspirations and efforts of the people interested in the advancement of education and enlightenment be strenuously directed towards establishing an additional High School in the town of Mymensingh.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 8th Mar. 1913.

The Dacca University.

304. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* cites the following lines from the criticism of the Calcutta University on the Dacca University scheme to illustrate how out-spoken that criticism has been:—"The young English professor who is sent out to this country does not, the Sydnicate apprehend, always possess the special qualifications required, and if, as may happen now and then, he should impress the students in his charge as strongly conscious of his position as a member of the ruling race, bonds of sympathy naturally will be very slow to form." The journal desires to congratulate the Syndicate, and especially its veteran mouthpiece, Dr. Thibaut, on this laudable courage of calling a spade a spade. It is not every officialised body and every European officer that often exhibits such a courageous candour. By-the-bye, after this admission, it is

hoped the University authorities will, in deciding upon future complaints of want of discipline on the part of students from European professors, remember their own wise words.

BENGALEE, 9th Mar. 1913.

The Calcutta University *versus* the Dacca University.

305. The *Bengalee* thinks that part of the able note on the Dacca University Committee's report, which the Syndicate of the Calcutta University have addressed to the Government of Bengal, will be read with greater interest than that in which they dwell with some emphasis and even warmth upon the relative "claims on Government assistance of the Calcutta University on the one hand and the Dacca University on the other." How, the Syndicate ask themselves at the outset, is the fact of Government taking upon themselves the charge of providing a full teaching University at Dacca likely to affect their attitude towards the older University of the Province? The misgiving which the Syndicate feel on this point and which they have taken no care to conceal seems to be due to two considerations. In the first place, the funds available for education in general and collegiate education in particular are known to be limited, and the Syndicate naturally fears that the creation of a new University of the teaching and residential type, entirely at Government expense, may not improbably lead the authorities to neglect the claims of the older University. And secondly, the framers of the Dacca scheme have assigned a position to the Calcutta University, as compared with the proposed University at Dacca, which may mislead the Government into thinking that money spent on the new University will be more usefully spent than money spent on the older University. Against this view the Syndicate of the Calcutta University enter their emphatic protest. They contend that the older University, if it has been mainly an examining University in the past, has been a teaching University as well and that through its affiliated colleges it has rendered service of the greatest value in this respect. What is more, for the past few years the University has been endeavouring, slowly perhaps, but steadily, to expand its teaching functions and to undertake direct teaching work on its own account. It not only maintains a Law College of its own, but through its Lecturers and Readers has been systematically carrying on post-graduate instruction. Further, the University, in the words of the Syndicate, has "quite recently succeeded in taking the first steps towards the foundation of a University Professoriate." Six professorships have so far been founded or as good as founded, although lectures have not as yet been actually delivered by more than one professor. These steps the Syndicate recognize are more or less initial, but they go to show that the task of building up a teaching University at Calcutta has been earnestly taken in hand, and what the Syndicate urge is that this task should not be abandoned. To abandon it would be a blunder worse than a crime, and the journal feels perfectly certain that no responsible Government will for a moment think of perpetrating such folly. The Calcutta University is, and must continue to be the premier University not only in the province, but in the country. Nothing less than that is the destiny marked out for it by the position and importance of Calcutta as the premier city in India. If Bengal is pre-eminently an intellectual province, Calcutta is the intellectual centre of Bengal, and a University situated at Calcutta enjoys advantages from this fact, which it must always be difficult for any other University to possess. The Calcutta University, moreover, exists for the whole province now and must continue to exist for the greater part of the province even when the Dacca University has come into existence; and it is inconceivable that the claims of the whole body of people or the vast majority should be sacrificed to those of a minority. The paper does not think the fears in which the Syndicate indulge are well-founded; but whether well-founded or not, they are certainly natural, and the Government cannot do better than make a clear and definite pronouncement on the subject. It is, indeed, their bounden duty to do so.

HERALD, 11th Mar 1913.

Chandpur High English School.

306. The ways of the Public Works Department, like those of Providence, seem to be inscrutable to the general public. According to a Chandpur correspondent to the *Herald*, when the construction of the corrugated iron shed for the accommodation of the Chandpur High English School is just coming to a close, the wise heads of the Public Works Department have not only disapproved the plan of the building but also its site. The shed has been under preparation for the last two years and a trifle of twenty thousand rupees has to be paid to the

contractor for it. Of this the sale of the half-finished building can, it seems, bring only Rs. 7,250. The rest is waste pure and simple. May it be asked who is responsible for this reckless expenditure of public money? The journal wonders why the authorities of the Public Works Department were not able to discover the defect of the plan and the site earlier so as to avoid this huge waste of public money. It appears to be, local feeling is that the present site of the school is more suitable than the one which has been selected. Will the Director of Public Instruction and Government look into the matter?

INDIAN MIRROR, 12th Mar. 1913.

Indian education.

307. Much, states the *Indian Mirror*, has been heard and said of the moral and religious education of Indian youths, and all sorts of remedies have been proposed to eliminate godlessness from the scheme of Indian education. But there is one point in the consideration of this matter which has been sought to be thrust in the background. While too much has been expected of schools and colleges in the matter of moulding characters and implanting ideals, nothing has been said in detail and tried in earnest as to impressing on parents and guardians the supreme necessity of their co-operation and help in this direction. And yet in the absence of a residential system, it is they whose help is the most needed and of the greatest service to ensure success in a matter of this kind. The rod of correction that is raised from behind the *purdah* exercises a more potent influence than the rigours of school discipline, and the look of anger and the word of admonition within the family circle do more for the moulding of a boy's morals than set lectures in the class room or exhortations in the public square. Above all, a boy's future depends to a considerable extent on the atmosphere in which he is made to breathe, to live and to grow. Should parents themselves set the example by leading lives of cleanliness and purity—of high thinking and plain living—of gentle speech and kindly thoughts—of temperance and moderation in everything, they create in the home and in the family an atmosphere which cannot but be conducive to the moral well-being and improvement of the younger generations of Indian youths.

(*e*)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

INDIAN EMPIRE, 11th Mar. 1913.

The Calcutta Improvement Trust.

308. If it be a criterian of the way the Trust Tribunal has performed their onerous duties in disposing of claims by the Bhowanipur people in regard to the Russa Road extension, the *Indian Empire* would suggest the appointment of a trained lawyer as President of the Tribunal permanently. Mr. Bompas is, like all Civilians, an all-round man, but even he himself would hesitate to lay claim to be an expert in Civil Law to enable him to dispose of claims by the rate-payers of Calcutta to the satisfaction of the public. The appointment of an Assessor in the person of Mr. A. C. Banarji has given universal satisfaction. Without detracting the merits of Mr. Bompas, the journal strongly urges the presidentship of the Tribunal to be given to a Barrister-at-Law, which will save a pretty large amount in shape of consultation fees to the lawyers. Besides giving confidence to the claimants, the works will be finished with great despatch. The paper is led to make this suggestion owing to the fact that whenever Mr. Bompas was pressed for legal questions for solution, he had either avoided it or referred to the lawyer, who, as he said, is paid large fees for his opinions. It would be, however, necessary to make some amendments in the Act. But that is a simple matter, which can be accomplished at one sitting of the Legislature. Doubtless Mr. Bompas himself will agree to this suggestion, as the change when effected will not only relieve him of a great load but will also facilitate the same at a considerable saving of the Trust Fund.

(*h*,—*General.*

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 6th Mar. 1913.

The cheering feature of the Bengal Financial Statement, 1913-1914.

309. In dealing in some detail with the Bengal Financial Statement, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks that its most cheering feature is the restoration of the Public Works Cess in its entirety to Bengal. The journal is deeply grateful to the Government of India for this act of justice, however tardy, to the people of this province. The

cess was imposed in 1877 and ought to have been utilized for the benefit of those for whom it was levied. But it was imperialised and thus Bengal was deprived of this source of revenue which fetches something like thirty lakhs per annum. In the beginning of this century, that is, in 1905, Sir Edward Baker, as Finance Minister, succeeded in inducing the Government of India to part with only 25 per cent. of the Public Works Cess and make it over to the District Boards of Bengali; the balance has now been given to the Local Government for the benefit of the Boards. It is no exaggeration to say that this is almost an epoch-making event; for it is no joke to secure such a large amount of money from the Imperial Government with its vanishing opium revenue and its new Delhi to build. And need it be said if Lord Carmichael had not taken up the cause of sanitation and rural water-supply in right earnest, Fortune would not have smiled on Bengal in this wise? In this matter His Excellency was loyally and warmly supported by all the members of his Council and the Secretaries of his Government; and the Journal is under obligation to all of them for this unexpected windfall which will add nearly Rs. 25,00,000 to the income of the District Boards. The bulk of the amount thus severed is proposed to be devoted to the supply of water in rural areas and the adoption of effective anti-malarial measures. This is very gratifying. If the proceeds of the Road and Public Works Cesses were spent for these purposes from the very beginning, the present terrible situation would not have cropped up in Bengal.

Mymensingh postal arrangements.

310. The *Herald* states that the thanks of the Mymensingh public are due to Mr. Tullock, the present able Postmaster-General of Eastern Bengal and Assam, under whose orders the defective postal arrangement at Mymensingh, to which the attention of the authorities were recently drawn, has already been remedied by a new arrangement for conveyance of the Calcutta mail by the morning train instead of by the night train as was formerly the case. It is also gratifying to note that the time for the last clearance at Mymensingh has been extended till seven in the evening. This too is certainly a great improvement on the previous arrangement.

HERALD, 12th Mar. 1913.

The race questions on the Public Services Commission.

311. As might have been expected, writes the *Bengalee*, the complaint regarding the manner in which the Public Services Commission has been doing its work has found its echo even in England. The Secretary of State for India was forced to take notice of it in the speech he made during the debate on the Address in the House of Lords. "There had been some misapprehension in the papers," said Lord Crewe, "regarding the manner in which the Public Services Commission had been doing its work." The articles, His Lordship continued, gave an idea that the greater part of the time had been taken up by a mere racial wrangle between those desiring to see the Services manned by Englishmen and those desiring to see them manned entirely by Indians. So far as the complaint itself is concerned, the journal has already said all that it had to say on the subject. It is satisfactory to find that the Secretary of State at any rate recognises that the question of the larger employment of Indians in the different branches of the administration demands a process of scrutiny and the greatest care, not only that public opinion may be satisfied, but also that the best possible results may be obtained. It is this scrutiny in which the Public Services Commission is engaged, and although the precise manner in which certain members of the Commission have been doing their work may leave a good deal to be desired, it cannot be seen how the scrutiny itself could have been avoided. Those who have been demanding loudly that the Commission should revise its method of procedure want nothing more or less than that the question of the larger employment of Indians should be shelved or at any rate should be treated as a subsidiary question instead of as the principal question before the Commission, which in reality it is. That, however, is not what Lord Crewe apparently desires. The meaning is clear when His Lordship says that public opinion is to be atisfied. In speech in the House of Lords which he delivered not very long ago, Lord Crewe laid down the proposition that after all it was the opinion of the people of India which mattered. And thepeople of India have with one voice declared that saimultaneous examinations are absolutely necessary if justice is to be done to their claims.

BENGALEE, 13th Mar. 1913.

BENGALEE, 14th Mar. 1913.

312. It was reserved, remarks the *Bengalee*, for an Indian Judge, Sir Narayan Chandavarkar, to declare in his evidence before the Public Services Commission that there was no appreciable amount of injustice caused by the combination of judicial and executive functions. In making this declaration Sir Narayan went against the accumulated testimony of a host of Judges, English and Indian, of two Secretaries of State, of a brilliant lawyer like the late Mr. Manomohan Ghosh, and a brilliant executive officer like the late Mr. Ramesh Chandra Datta, both of whom made a special study of the subject and of two generations of India's public men of almost every shade of political opinion. Only a week ago a remarkable proof of the unanimity of public opinion in this matter was afforded when the non-official Indian members of the Legislative Council forgot their differences in other respects and combined to support Babu Surendranath Banarji's resolution on the separation of judicial and executive functions. Sir Narayan has every right to "considerably" change his views on public questions, but surely he owes it as much to himself as to the public to explain the reasons which have led him to change opinions which at one time he held in common with the rest of his countrymen, and which his countrymen still hold.

Sir Narayan Chandavarkar on the combination of judicial and executive functions.

III.—LEGISLATION.

HINDOO PATRIOT, 3rd Mar. 1913.

313. The *Hindoo Patriot* writes that the text of a new Bill dealing with conspiracies, which will shortly be introduced into the Imperial Legislative Council, has been published. It seeks to assimilate the provisions of the Indian Penal Code with those of the English anti-conspiracy law, with an additional safeguard the nature of which is well defined. Under the present law, as contained in section 121A of the Penal Code, no conspiracy, which has not for its object waging war against the Sovereign or the subversion of his authority, is punishable. But the Indian public has latterly grown familiar with conspiracies which stop short just at this point, though the suppression of these is no less imperatively demanded in the interests of society. None therefore can fairly object to a measure of this kind on the score of its being either premature or unnecessary. With the crowning crime of the attempted assassination of a Viceroy whose forbearance and fortitude have only been equalled by Canning, with the long series of political dakaities that have disgraced the annals of rural Bengal, coupled with the conspicuous failure of the efforts made by the authorities to suppress such organizations, the journal is not prepared to say that the Government are not justified in bringing forward a measure of this kind. It is a monstrous misuse of terms to say that the situation has improved. Where are the signs of such improvement to be found? Not surely in the latest records of political crime. It is admitted that the proposed measure is liable to be abused and that innocent men may sometimes come to grief. But this is predicable of nearly every penal provision and the Select Committee may be trusted to provide additional safeguards so as to make the Bill shorn of its sting to the extent practicable.

The Conspiracy Bill.

INDIAN MIRROR, 8th Mar. 1913.

314. The *Indian Mirror* can say with confidence that the views expressed by the *Bengalee* and some other indigenous organs, in deprecation of the Conspiracy Bill, are shared by a small portion of the Bengali community. Babu Surendranath Banarji's speech in the Imperial Legislative Council has surprised even many of his admirers, especially in view of the assurance of co-operation given by him only a few days back, and it is said that a different note would have been struck perhaps in the Council Chamber had Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu occupied the seat which Babu Surendranath holds. At all events, the sober-minded public men of Bengal are in perfect agreement with the Government of India that all legal loopholes for the escape of the fomenters of sedition and anarchism should be closed.

Ibid.

315. Reverting to this subject the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks that voting in Councils is sometimes so inexplicable a phenomenon as to baffle one's comprehensions. Take the case of the amendment proposed by the Hon'ble Babu Surendranath Banarji to refer the Conspiracy Bill to the High Court and the public bodies before referring it to a Select Committee. There is no doubt of it that that was the only rational and safe course to be adopted in the case of a Bill of such far-reaching importance. But, with the single exception of the Hon'ble Mr. V. Raghavas Chariar, none voted for the amendment. Some indeed went the length of opposing it openly. Of course every Hon'ble gentleman voted according to his own light. But, on those who pose as the representatives of the people, an additional responsibility rests. For, they are in the Council not on their own account or to give their own individual opinions, but to speak on behalf of and in the name of their respective constituents. Now, may these dissentient gentlemen be asked how they could, off-hand and without any opportunity of consulting their constituents or of knowing their view, gave their votes so readily on such a vital matter? Had they (the latter) authorised them to say that they did not want to profit by the opinions of theHigh Court—the only effective bulwarks of their rights and liberties? Or did the Hon'ble gentlemen honestly consider that the opinions of the High Courts and public bodies would not be to the interest of the people of the country? The only effect of such a way of using the voting powers has been that the Anti-Indian journals are making capital out of the enormous majority of those who voted with the Government—thereby creating false impressions about the sense of the people of the country—and trying to throw mud at the only two gentlemen who really voiced that sense and who fought against heavy and unexpected odds to protect the jeopardised popular interests.

Amrita Bazar Patrika, 8th Mar. 1913.

The Conspiracy Bill.

316. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* takes exception to the hurrying up of the Conspiracy Bill so hastily as it cannot but fill the people with wonder. The Report of the Select Committee on the Bill will be presented to the Legislative Council on the 11th instant and the Bill will come up for disposal on the 18th idem. When the Government desires the passing of the Bill, it will be passed. Why if the Government so desires that the people should walk on their heads, it is their duty to obey that *hookoom*. But what is the harm if the people, who are so much exercised over the measure, are allowed some time to say their say on it,?

Amrita Bazar Patrika, 10th Mar. 1913.

Ibid.

317. At Friday's meeting of the Supreme Legislative Council Babu Surendranath Banarji, remarks the *Bengalee*, moved that the grants made to Local Governments be increased by such allotments as the Government of India may think fit, with a view to carry out the experiment of the separation of judicial and executive functions in the administration of criminal justice in areas to be selected by Local Governments with the approval of the Government of India. The resolution was financial and therefore did not specifically raise the question of principle which underlies the demand for the separation of judicial and executive functions, and in regard to which the country has, during the last quarter of a century and more, spoken out with singular unanimity and emphasis. But it was impossible to discuss the financial resolution without referring to the question of principle, and both the mover and those who took part in the debate did refer to it in the speeches they made. The debate itself disclosed the strength and volume of the public feeling behind the demand. Speaker after speaker rose to support Mr. Banarji, and most of those who thus supported him were men who only a couple of days before had opposed his amendment in connection with the Conspiracy Bill. The fact was significant and showed that the demand for the separation of judicial and executive functions is no longer confined to the school of thought represented by the Congress, but is practically universal in the country. Zamindars and Muhammadan members were as emphatic and as whole-hearted in their support of the resolution as lawyers and journalists. It was a Muhammadan member who asked Mr. Banarji to press for a division so as to convince the Government how strongly the country felt on the subject. The division itself, considering the constitution of the Supreme Legislative Council, was eminently satisfactory. In fact it was a record vote unprecedented in the history of the reformed

Bengalee, 9th Mar. 1913.

Separation of executive and judicial functions.

Council. The entire body of Indian members, Hindus and Muhammadans, united in supporting the resolution.

BENGALEE, 13th Mar. 1913.

Separation of judicial and executive function.

318. The *Bengalee* understood from the *Pioneer* that the Hon'ble Mr. Vijiaraghava Chatiya will move a resolution in the Viceroy's Legislative Council asking that papers be published relating to the separation of judicial and executive functions. This is exactly as it should be. The remarkable effect produced by the result of the division on Babu Surendranath Banarji's resolution should be followed up by some such action. The matter should, in fact, be kept constantly before the Government and the public from now, and the agitation in favour of the separation of functions should be carried on even more vigorously and more systematically than before. It is perfectly obvious that victory is at hand in the great battle which has been incessantly waged during the last 30 years and more.

V.—Prospects of the Crops and Condition of the People.

TELEGRAPH, 8th Mar. 1913.

Famine conditions.

319. The *Telegraph* writes that famine conditions in Ahmedabad and elsewhere have not relaxed, while the pretty heavy showers in Bengal within the last three or four days presage no good to the winter crops. Scarcity is being apprehended in more quarters than one; and if these apprehensions prove true the situation would be serious indeed. The lightness of winter this year is another premonition of evil, and epidemics are likely to overtake the devoted population. The journal hopes the authorities will take warning in time and be prepared to meet the evils of famine and pestilence on the outskirts rather than allow them to obtain a foot-hold in the country.

VI.—Miscellaneous.

BENGALEE, 8th Mar. 1913.

The Maharaja of Jaipur.

320. Hardly had the echoes of the virulent personal attack upon His Highness the Gaekwar in an English newspaper died away when, observes the *Bengalee*, a similar campaign of abuse was opened against the Maharaja of Jeypore—this time in the columns of the *Pioneer*. The charge against the Maharaja was that during the recent marriage ceremony of his son with the daughter of the Maharaja of Balarampore he had treated the European guests with positive disrespect and had offered unpardonable insult to the representative of His Majesty in the province. The most cursory examination of the allegations against the Maharaja is enough to show that the disrespect and the insult are matters of inference and of opinion, and that the charge, so far as the question of fact is concerned, reduces itself to one merely of unpunctuality. The Maharaja in fact was alleged to have failed to appear when his presence was expected, and by this failure to have caused inconvenience to the European guests. The matter in itself was scarcely of much importance, and whether the allegations were true or false, would have attracted no public attention had not the *Pioneer's* correspondent invested it with the importance of a grave public consideration. But this having been done the Maharaja evidently felt that he could not do better than nip the mischief in the bud by making a public pronouncement as to what really it was that happened. The pronouncement which was embodied in a letter from the Maharaja to the *Pioneer* completely demolishes the ingenious framework which the *Pioneer's* correspondent sought to build upon a foundation of half truths, of which it has been said that they are worse than untruths. Every charge against the Maharaja is conclusively proved to be baseless. He had done what everybody else would have done in his position, and if his actions or omissions caused any inconvenience to Sir James Meston, he had already done all that was necessary by offering a suitable apology to His Honour. In the circumstances it seems to be the clear duty of both the *Pioneer* and its correspondent to publicly withdraw the charges made in the letter against the Maharaja.

321. In view of the strong opinion of a large number of prominent public men in the province as to the desirability of holding the Social Conference simultaneously with the Provincial Conference, the *Herald* feels it its duty to urge on the attention of the authorities of the Conference that there is no time to be lost in making arrangements for a successful session of the Social Conference in this city. It will be a great slur on the enlightened public opinion of Dacca if, for some reason or other, the matter is dropped. All that is wanted in this direction is that somebody should come forward to take up the work earnestly. May the paper be permitted to enquire, in this connection, what the Provincial Social Reform Association is doing to push the noble work they have undertaken? Obviously it is too much to expect that everybody who is a political reformer is a social reformer also. The task of the Social Conference, therefore, falls primarily to those who have avowedly stood for it.

HERALD, 9th Mar. 1913.

The question of the Social Conference.

322. The *Bengalee* writes that the Bengal Provincial Conference meets at Dacca on the 22nd and 23rd March next. Some of the questions that will come up for consideration before the Conference are as important as they are urgent, and it is of the utmost importance that the public should muster strong at the meetings of the Conference, so that they may be properly discussed. There is not much time to lose, and public men and associations both in the city and the districts should proceed to the election of delegates with as little delay as possible. The best men should make it a point to attend the Conference and to give it the benefit of their wisdom and their experience. The journal earnestly hopes no effort will be spared to make the ensuing Conference as great a success as any of its predecessors.

BENGALEE, 9th Mar 1913.

The Bengal Provincial Conference.

323. Now that the long-expected *Bombay Chronicle* has at last come out, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* accords it a hearty welcome. It has all the features of a high class daily journal. Time was when such a journal started under such distinguished auspices, might have rendered some real good to the country. But those days, alas! are now no more. As expected, the *Bombay Chronicle* is a very "moderate" paper. Thus while it supports the principle of the Conspiracy Bill and the necessity of its being passed into law, it criticises the hasty attitude of the Government in not submitting it to the High Courts and public bodies for their respective opinions.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 11th Mar. 1913.

The *Bombay Chronicle*.

324. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes:—"We are getting civilised! That is to say, we are gradually securing all the blessings of Western civilization. The general idea is that light comes from the East. That is, of course, a fiction. It is the West which is illumining the East. India first tasted the sweets of robust civilization when West infected her with a certain unmentionable disease from which she, as a barbarous country, was free. The Indians have abundance of it now, and are no doubt deeply grateful to the West for this blessing. We are getting civilized. If, in days of yore, India had very little of litigation and litigiousness, and such crimes as perjury and forgery were practically unknown to her, it was not because she was more virtuous or less litigious than other countries, nor because she was provided with a simple and effective legal machinery in every village and every hamlet which made it virtually impossible for litigiousness and its concomitant evils to flourish, but because she was in a state of crude civilization. Slowly, however, India got her full share of litigation and litigiousness and the pleasures they carry with them. Of course she need not be sorry for it, for it shows, not that her people are sinking deeper into the mire of degradation, but that they are shaking off their barbarism. The worst such a situation can do is to eat into the vitals of the people—to make them poorer and more miserable; but do they not more than compensate these drawbacks by raising her to the level of the great enlightened countries? And is not litigation a great blessing? What is more attractive, more exciting, more soul-elevating than a fight of two neighbours in a court of law, both beggaring themselves, and each trying to put down his opponent by resorting to all dirty tricks which human ingenuity can conceive! So, India, rejoice. For the development and growth of crimes and criminal laws is a sure sign of increasing civilization.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA. 13th Mar. 1913.

"We are getting civilised."

We are getting civilized. If India was without the vice of intoxication, if her cities and towns, villages and hamlets, streets and bazars were unstudded with liquor and grog-shops, if her people abhorred intoxicating drinks as poison—so much so that the insignificant race of *Soories* who manufactured wines were never allowed a place within a town but located in its outskirts—it was not because she was more virtuous or soberer than others, but because her civilization was undeveloped. Slowly, however, liquor shops and grog-shops began to rear up their heads and there is now scarcely an important village which has not got one to decoy the people into its trap. But she need not at all be sorry; for this shows, not that Indians have put their feet into the pitfall of vice, nor that they are commencing to lose their sober habits, but that they are getting more civilized. The worst such a state of things can do is to make the people beasts and moral and physical wretches, but does not the prospect of being levelled up to the highwater mark of civilization afford India more than adequate compensation? So, India, rejoice! For are not liquor shops and grog-shops and drinking habits undoubted indexes of civilization? We are getting civilized. If India was without any Penal Code, and highly complicated criminal laws, it was not because her people were constitutionally law-abiding and non-criminal, but because they were semi-barbarous! In course of time, however, she got her Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code; her Sedition law and Press law; and last, though not the least—that sure symbol of civilization—the 'conspiracy law.' But India need not be sorry, for these proclaim, not that her people are being more and more enmeshed in a network of complicated and rigorous penal measures, but that they are getting more and more civilized. The utmost these can do is to curtail the rights and liberties they ought to enjoy as the most loyal and most law-abiding subjects of a great and beneficent Sovereign, or to give a longer rope to an overzealous police to harass them, but is not all that mere nothing before the brilliant prospect of India being raised to the dignity of a highly civilized country. So India, rejoice! Rejoice that thou hast at last got a law—not 'imported from a barbarous or semi-civilized country,' but one which adorns the Statute Book of 'so advanced and law-abiding a country' as England—thy mistress! Rejoice that thou hast at last got a law, 'interpreted and administered,' not by Red Indians or Negroes, nor by the Bhils and Sonthals, but by the 'most eminent English Judges'! Rejoice that thou hast at last been presented with a law that provides for sentences which have been 'affirmed and re-affirmed,'—not by unlettered peasants or rowdy hooligans, but 'by the greatest men,' and that 'from a period that extends from some centuries back up to the present day.' Rejoice that a law, which took long, long centuries for England to acquire and develop, is given to thee unasked and unsolicited, without a moment's begging and all at once as a voluntary gift! Rejoice in thy unearned treasure! Rejoice finally, that in the fulness of time the slight gap that still remains between thee and thy mistress will be bridged over by those highest symbols of civilization—a Divorce Law, with life's partners fighting in courts with its help like Kilkenny cats; as well as by a Suffragist movement with plenty of window-smashing and letter-box burning and house-burning, bringing down the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. Rejoice in thy cheering prospect!"

BENGALEE, 11th Mar. 1913.

Insane comment.

325. When shall the *Bengalee* hear the last of the absurd doctrine that a man, to be loyal, must support everything that the Government does—every measure that it brings forward in the Legislative Councils and every executive action taken by it or in its name? This antiquated superstition has been exploded a hundred times, but superstitions in politics as in the sphere of religion, die hard, and it is scarcely surprising that there are Anglo-Indian journals in this country which every now and then dress up this particular superstition in the form of a truism. The worst of it is that these journals scarcely ever practise what they preach. The Anglo Indian journals of this city, for instance, took the Indian section of the press and Indian public men severely to task for their inability to see eye to eye with Government in regard to much that it did during the years immediately following the partition of Bengal. When crime broke out, it was openly asserted that the Congress party, if they were not privy to the

actual crimes, had at any rate encouraged the propaganda of violence and that their opposition to the repressive measures clearly proved that they were in sympathy with crime. Yet as soon as the Government happened to do something which affected *their* interests and those of their constituents, no language was thought sufficiently strong by these very journals in condemning the Government and their action. There was no moderation, no measuring of words, no self-restraint. It was no longer avowed that loyalty to the Government demanded passive acquiescence in whatever it did.

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